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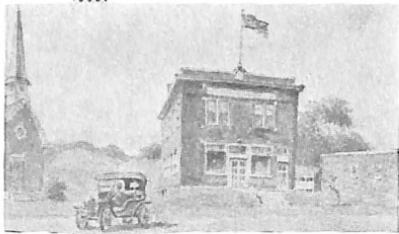
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CREVE COEUR
and
SURROUNDING AREA

ARCHIVES



1906



1921



1954



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CONFIDENCE
AND
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SYMBOLIZING
THE
GROWTH
OF
CREVE
COEUR



CREVE COEUR **B**ANK
AND TRUST COMPANY
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CREVE COEUR and SURROUNDING AREA

by

CITIZENS' HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

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Citizens' Historical Committee

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Dedication

DIERBERG'S SUPERMARKETS
AND
CREVE COEUR BANK
AND TRUST COMPANY

*Consider it a privilege
To dedicate this
History of Creve Coeur
and surrounding area . . .*

To our forefathers, to the living and to those yet unborn, who have established and who will establish our churches, schools, governments, and civic organizations, prompted only by the spirit of civic pride and a desire to contribute something to the present and future generations.

TO THE FRIENDS OF CREVE COEUR

We, as a committee with a strong interest in the town of Creve Coeur and its surrounding area and a desire to provide the families who move to this fast growing area with a short history of their new home, have prepared the following historical publication with the help of Mr. Richard D. Ott, Ph. D. in Education, in the hope that it will be both interesting and informative to old and new residents of west St. Louis County.

We concentrated primarily upon the community which is now the incorporated city of Creve Coeur, the communities immediately surrounding, and the Creve Coeur Lake area which played such an important role in making this city one of the most popular and colorful of comparable size in the state of Missouri.

This booklet is composed of information obtained from works on the history of St. Louis County, records at the County Court House, contacts with some of the people who made and lived the early history of this area, records of early churches, schools, and businesses, and many private sources which so willingly cooperated with the committee's efforts.

It is our wish that the reader will find this booklet to contain material which is not only authentic, but fascinating as well.

Some of the information contained herein may not be in accord with the reader's memories. As we compiled the material, we often were faced with the necessity of choosing one of several interpretations of a particular event. Therefore, we acknowledge that the views of history differ depending upon the observer's vantage point.

Our aim was to include as much as was practical and not to offend any group or person by omission. We could not, however, possibly include each person who had a role in shaping the community although we would have liked to do so. We sincerely hope that every reader will find this to be worthwhile and valuable reading.

Respectfully Submitted,

Fred W. Durby

Chairman

Citizens' Historical Committee

Introduction

"To be ignorant of what happened before you were born is to be ever a child. For what is man's lifetime unless the memory of past events is woven with those of earlier times?"

Cicero Orator

Unless a man will take the time to record the events of his life, any value which the experiences of his existence might hold for posterity is lost. The mistakes he made and the false prophets he followed will appear again and again, as his descendants, out of ignorance, continue to plow the ground which he found to be so infertile. History is the master teacher of the ages and it is a moral responsibility of each generation to see that this teacher is properly prepared for the subsequent years.

Perhaps the attempt to overextend an historical work is just as sinful as not compiling one. As the scope of an historical undertaking expands, authenticity, thoroughness and depth are compromised for the sake of volume and extensity. It is desirable that any work be complete within the framework of its stated purposes. In an effort to avoid aimless wanderings, each person attempting to record a part of history must establish boundaries and goals. For this reason, the following purposes and limitations are offered:

1. The primary purpose of this work was to present a current, accurate and interesting account of the events in history which have shaped the present community of Creve Coeur.

2. A secondary purpose was to create a spirit of pride, accomplishment, and belonging among the people who reside in and around the Creve Coeur Community by presenting to them their traditions and heritage.

3. The above objectives were pursued using the means readily and economically available to the contributing parties. Very often the information represents the recollections of an elderly resident or the longhand notes in the margin of an old yellow photograph. Although authenticity is a goal and, whenever possible, hard documents were the source of material, it must be acknowledged that certain information was necessarily interpreted through time-clouded lenses peer-ing backward.

4. The term, Creve Coeur Community, as herein used, embraces more than that land enclosed by the city's present legal boundaries. It includes the towns and settlements immediately adjacent--namely, Stratmann, Fern Ridge, The Creve Coeur Lake Area, Chesterfield, Gumbo, Lake, and Bellefontaine. The events of history seldom present themselves entirely within prescribed political boundaries and much of Creve Coeur's history has origins and ramifications in the surrounding regions.

It is with full consideration of these conditions and apologies that a committee of residents in the Creve Coeur Community have set about to collect and present a history of their home town--a town which they feel has a colorful past and a brilliant future. Many interviews were conducted and many pages perused to gather the data necessary to prepare this booklet. If enthusiasm, interest, and effort are any gauge of the worth of this publication, then it is indeed a quality venture.

Finally, there are those whose specific labors warrant acknowledgment. The community is indebted to those who conceived the idea of preparing this history, to those who contacted and organized the contributors and to those who willingly gave of their time as resource people. We are, in short grateful to all those who prepared this work. More than this, we are obliged, beyond our ability to express, to those who have lived the events described upon the following pages.



Old Settler's Association of St. Louis County. Picture was taken at the St. Louis County Fair in 1888.

"One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh, but the earth abideth forever."

Ec. 1, 4.

Purpose

If a history is to be complete it is necessary to locate and report events in relation to time. Before this can be done, however, it is necessary to locate and define the places involved in relation to space. The purpose of this chapter is to describe the physical location of Creve Coeur, and the origin of the name, to report on the communities surrounding Creve Coeur, and to discuss some of the inter-relationships of these adjacent communities.

Why Call It Creve Coeur?

Legends, even though they are often factually inaccurate, are worthy of inclusion in a history, sometimes, because they are a part of a people's culture. Perhaps historians can often justify reporting legends because of the beauty and imagination involved.

One such legend, beautiful, imaginative, and probably inaccurate, is one of the origins of the name Creve Coeur. It is, of course, a French expression meaning broken heart. The name was taken for the community from the lake area which lies to the northwest of the present city of Creve Coeur.

It is reported that the Indians residing in the area had been disillusioned with the white man because, first the missionaries spoke to them in soothing tones of brotherhood and peace, then others came along and spoke to them of conquest--with the thunder of guns. These Indians settled on the banks of a large lake in the flood plain of the Missouri River near the place where the Missouri and the Mississippi flowed together.

The chief of this particular tribe had a young daughter named Me-Me-Ton-Wish, probably very beautiful by the standards of her people. The long range plans of this girl included marriage to Haida, one of the stormy young braves of the tribe.

Haida burst into the village one day, boasting how he had struck down a white enemy on the trail leading into the Indian settlement. He did not kill the intruder, for some reason, and this gave the chief and his daughter an opportunity to go to the white man and convince Haida that he was not one of the

dreaded Spaniards and that since he came alone, he surely had no intentions of conquest or violence.

The white man was taken to the lodge of the chief to be nursed back to health, partially out of compassion and mostly out of fear of reprisal by other whites should this man die as the result of the ambush. Me-Me-Ton-Wish prayed to her gods to spare the life of the attractive paleface.

After a time, the white man was able to communicate the facts that his name was Jean, he was French, he was from Canada, and his only motive for violating the territory of the Indians was to trap for furs. Haida was very reluctant to accept all this and he reiterated the fear that more white men would follow and drive his people from the land.

As Jean regained his strength, he brought much joy and laughter to the lodge of the chief and particularly into the heart of Me-Me-Ton-Wish. The princess learned that Jean had a woman waiting for him back in Quebec; but being severely moonstruck she was not deterred from her goal, namely, the love of Jean. They drank the water of a crystal spring from a single gourd. To the Indians, this meant Jean would come back, and share a lodge with Me-Me-Ton-Wish. To Jean, it was an old woman's tale, and signified nothing.

Several months after the Frenchman's departure, Haida was successful in stirring his people to the point of going to war against the Whites who were beginning to settle east of the Mississippi. The Whites came to fear these Indians and did not trespass on their territory.

Five months after leaving the village, Jean returned with a friend. It was his intention to find Me-Me-Ton-Wish, take her to Cahokia, marry her and live happily ever after. Jean was not aware of the change that time had wrought upon the attitudes of the tribe regarding white men.

He and his friend were attacked by a band led by Haida. Jean called out his identity to his friends of five months earlier, and the reply was a hail of arrows. Me-Me-Ton-Wish cried above the din asking that Haida spare the Frenchman. She promised to forget Jean if he would be permitted to leave unharmed. Haida agreed, but Jean, driven by blind young passions, advanced to claim his bride and was brought down by a well-placed arrow before he could ever see his princess again. With broken heart, the girl told her people to leave their village before other whites come to reap vengeance. Haida proudly proclaimed the strength of his tribe and accepted the challenge to meet and repel the avenging whites, should they dare to come.

Me-Me-Ton-Wish, in an effort to get her point across to her people, bolted the council ring, ran to a ledge high above the lake shore, implored her gods to help her convince the tribe, and cast herself onto the arms of the waiting waters. In response to her sacrifice, the earth came alive and roared, shook, and broke apart.

The tribe was then willing to forsake the warlike ways of Haida and follow the old chief to another place where hopefully they would begin a new life. The trembling earth had broken the lake; where before, there was one large body of water, there were now two. The original lake was pierced by soil raised by the fury of the earthquake. The tribe was broken also, and so was the heart of the late Me-Me-Ton-Wish. This is why, according to this legend, the water in this basin was named the Lake of the Broken Heart.

Another legend relates that when Me-Me-Ton-Wish learned Jean had a woman waiting in Quebec, and that he did not intend to return her love, threw herself over a cliff. Immediately, upon her death, a clear water spring came into existence, known as Dripping Springs. This continuous flow of water represents the eternal tears of the brokenhearted maiden.

Yet a third explanation of the name is attributed to an epidemic which followed a flood and killed many of the settlers in the area, leaving broken hearted survivors. Another story tells of the wife of a bellringer in a St. Louis Catholic Church who spent a year living on the shores of the lake and broke her heart longing for her loved ones far away.

Another possible origin of the name is the settlement of Creve Coeur in Illinois. Missionaries, travelers, and settlers migrating from there could have called their new Missouri home by the same name as the area from which they had come.

It is also possible that a French nobleman with the term Creve Coeur somewhere in his title could have visited or lived in the area, or in some way inspired the naming of the settlement.

A much less romantic, but probably more authentic explanation of the name revolves around the shape of the lakes at the time the area was first charted by French trappers and explorers. In time, the floods of the Missouri River have deposited silt in the lake bottom to the extent that one of the two lakes originally present on the site has now been filled.

Even before the land was mapped by the French, it is believed that the lowlands were filled with one large ox-bow lake nestled in a bend in the river. When, however, both lakes did in fact exist, they were close together and their

combined shape was that of a heart with a cleavage of land through the heart. These lakes appeared as a heart of water broken as it were by a finger of land.

Olive Street Road

Throughout the story of man on this continent he has demonstrated a tendency to take his family and move toward the west where it appeared that more space and opportunity were waiting. No sooner was one settlement established on the fringes of civilization than it became a point of departure for people going farther to the west. This pattern is both evident and logical in the expansion of the United States from the eastern seaboard to the Pacific.

When the pioneers would decide to leave an existing community they usually did so with a certain plan, which was to strike out over a trail, road, or river providing them with some link backward to the society which they had left. Seldom would they go into the wilderness with the notion of complete isolation.

The settlements would erupt like beads on a string along a river or a road that was used for this westward migration. One such string was represented by what is now called Olive Boulevard.

The general path of Olive Boulevard is an original trail which was a river to river connection. It faced the west which divided the north and south water sheds of St. Louis County and the Mississippi in St. Louis with Howell's Ferry across the Missouri west of Gumbo. From the western end of this trail, wagons, horses, and people were ferried across the Missouri into St. Charles County.

This road was originally called Old Bonhomme Road because it led from the City of St. Louis through the Bonhomme bottoms on the St. Louis County side of the Missouri River. In May of 1851, a corporation was granted a charter to construct and operate a toll plank road from the western boundary of St. Louis City to Howell's Ferry. The route of the Old Bonhomme Road was changed slightly to create a more direct right of way and the thoroughfare became known as the Central Plank Road. The road was constructed, bridges and toll gates built, and taverns and inns were established, and named to inform the traveler of the approximate mileage from the City Court House. Because of financial troubles, the company was dissolved and the County took over the obligations of the road in 1858.



Winter scene of Olive Street Road at Lake, Missouri in the early 1900's. Building to the right is the first Lake School House.

The exact point in time when the name Olive Street Road came into being is vague. A court order dated June 9, 1859, does, however, direct the paving of Olive Street Road, and refers to it by that name. The road continued as a toll road until 1860 when a court order did away with toll gates on specified St. Louis County roads.

The origin of the name of this road is explained by both improbable legend and probable logic. The legend is that an early settler intended to grow olives along the route and referred to it as the path of olives. A more probable explanation is that the system of street naming used in St. Louis City was patterned after that used in Philadelphia, because the first mayor of St. Louis was from Pennsylvania. It was not uncommon, according to early state Legislative records, to call the roads which were rural extensions of city streets by the name of the parent street: thus, the name, *Olive Street Road*.

As people began to move into the settlements along early Olive Street Road, other streets and roads thrust themselves laterally from the primary artery. These early roads were named for families who lived on them or whose original driveway was traced by the right of way.

The names Spoede, Denny, Mason, Craig, Emerson and Ross were found on plats showing land owners long before the appearance of the roads which presently bear these names. The usual procedure was for a petition to be presented to the county asking for condemnation of a right of way and subsequent paving. These roads were seldom developed more than a mile at a time. The past decade has witnessed the birth of many subdivisions on either side of Olive. Each time

a new development appears, one or more streets comes into being.

At this writing, Olive has been expanded into a four lane artery and Interstate Freeway 244 has cut a swath through the western part of Creve Coeur as it traces the route of a major outer belt highway. Recent action by local government has changed the official name of Creve Coeur's main street from Olive Street Road to Olive Boulevard.

A glance at the early maps of St. Louis County will show a procession of small communities moving along Olive from the city of St. Louis toward the west. It is pertinent to the history of Creve Coeur to investigate some of these towns, particularly those immediately to the east and west. In recent years, some of the original settlements have lost their identity by being annexed and absorbed by the larger municipalities in St. Louis County.

A systematic approach to the discussion of these towns would be to treat them as they appear along Olive moving westward. The first to appear is Stratmann, then Creve Coeur, Fern Ridge, then to the north, the Creve Coeur Lake area, then, back on Olive the Community of Lake, the town of Hilltown, or Bellefontaine as it is now called, and finally the Cheshirefield-Gumbo community.

The histories of the municipalities in St. Louis County are, intricately interwoven with the history of the country. A few general statements about some of the significant events in the development and growth of St. Louis County will, therefore, be presented before discussing the selected towns adjacent to Creve Coeur.

St. Louis County

The territory of Missouri was organized into five districts in 1812 by Governor William Clark. One of these districts was St. Louis, named for the town honoring King Louis IX of France. The district's boundaries were not clearly defined; in 1815, however, more definite lines were drawn and St. Louis embraced all or parts of five contemporary counties. In 1818, the present-day boundaries were created.

The constitutional convention in 1875 adopted Section 20, Article IX of the Constitution which served Missouri at that time. This measure enabled the City to divorce itself from St. Louis County, to extend its boundaries somewhat, absorb the county's debt, and become an independent city.

The separation officially became operative on October 22, 1876, sixty days after approval by a popular vote. The re-

sulting independence and containment of the city has drawn commentary from both critics and proponents for the past 90 years. Certain reuniting motions have been proposed in recent years, but voters have not, as of this writing, chosen to consolidate the county and the city.

STRATMANN

On Old Olive Street Road, just east of Lindbergh, which is now a part of the incorporated City of Creve Coeur, was a small town called Stratmann. This town consisted of a general store, blacksmith shop, wagon maker, commission merchant, plus the village post office.

In the year 1836, Mr. Henry Stratmann bought a ten acre tract of land east of Lindbergh on the south side of old Olive Street Road (which was then known as Central Plank Road). Mr. Stratmann began a general mercantile business, which included a saloon, pool hall, and the post office. This business was conducted in later years by Herman Zimmermann, George Schaeffer, and August Prante, in that order. In the late 1920's, while Mr. Prante was proprietor, the building was destroyed by fire.



Deuser Blacksmith Shop at the corner of Denny and Olive Street Road. This was converted into an automobile repair shop in 1914.

Mr. William Deuser moved into this area in 1854 and opened a blacksmith shop on the northeast corner of Olive Street Road and Lindbergh, with Mr. Conrad Grieb as the wagon maker. When the automobile became popular, the blacksmith

and wagonmaker yielded the business to an auto repair shop, which was also a sub-dealer in cars. Mr. Walter Hecht bought this business from Mr. Deuser in the 1920's and later moved to the northwest corner of Lindbergh and Olive Street Road. This is now the location of Lou Fusz Motor Company, which opened for business here in 1965.

In 1902, Mr. Oscar Weber and Mr. Alvin Schmelig became the first commission merchants, located across the street from the general store. This business flourished until 1964, when Charles Jahn closed the business because of the lack of farm produce to be hauled. Mr. Jahn entered into this business after the death of Mr. Schmelig and became a partner of Mr. Weber. Following the death of Mr. Weber, Mr. Jahn became sole owner and was the last of the commission merchants on Olive Street Road.

The U. S. Post Office at Stratmann was closed around 1905, when rural routes were set up in St. Louis County.

Creve Coeur Lake

Creve Coeur Lake enjoyed patronage for a number of years unequalled before or since in the history of St. Louis County. This popularity was mainly made possible beginning before the turn of the century by joining the Lake area with the City of St. Louis via the Missouri Pacific Railroad and the Creve Coeur Lake streetcar line.

A series of extensions to existing street car lines resulted in the first test run taking place December 17, 1900. In 1901, moonlighter cars were added and provided to many, the pleasure of summer evening excursions out from the city.

For a time, even the automobile could not nudge these jerky coaches from their position of prominence. It is reported that in the 1920's, many thousands of fares would be paid in a single day. During this same decade, the prohibition racketeers with their newly acquired wealth, began frequenting club houses, resorts, and road houses in the lake area. They used these haunts for their usual diversions—relaxation, gambling, drinking, and killing each other.

In the prime days, picnics, fireworks displays, carnivals, boat races, and motorcycle races were among the events to delight the visitors from town. During the ten years preceding World War II, however, a long and steady decline in popularity was experienced. Several possible explanations are offered for this decline. It was a time of severe economic hardship and, perhaps, people were preoccupied with the more basic pursuits of life. Perhaps the advent of the automobile

opened new and more distant recreational areas to the citizens of St. Louis. Maybe the urbanization of the route to the lake and the blight of the settlement around the waters made it a less beckoning spot. Possibly, the hoodlum element (present in considerable numbers), was enough to cause many to seek diversion elsewhere.

Whatever the reasons, the lake ceased to be the playground it once was, and in 1950, the last passengers, mostly for reasons of sentiment and nostalgia, were transported by streetcar to Crows' Nest, then shuttled to the lake. This marked the end of a most fascinating and delightful era in the history of the entire St. Louis community.

Fern Ridge

Immediately west of the present city limits of Creve Coeur is the community of Fern Ridge. No concrete evidence has been found to explain this name or that the town was ever called anything else. An early traveler or settler perhaps noticed ferns or some similar growth upon the high ground in this vicinity which overlooks the Missouri River bottoms.

The earliest reports of habitation by white men are dated just following the Civil War. A quarry came into existence about that time, operated by Fred M. Wright, south of Olive and east of Creve Coeur Creek.

This quarry was later acquired and operated by a local Justice of the Peace, George Knoche. During the days of the Works Progress Administration, the County ran the excavation under the name, Fern Ridge Quarry.

In 1870 a log building housed the first general mercantile store in this settlement. The first known owner was Jack Martin who then sold the business to the aforementioned Fred M. Wright. The store was taken over by John Braun in 1897, who operated it until his death in 1914, after which time his wife became the proprietor. She sold out to George Schaeffer and he in turn sold to Mr. Alfred Castillon in 1921.

The store has since remained in the Castillon family. Today, Raymond along with his sons, Kenneth and Donald, operate a complete and modern supermarket at the original site.

The first blacksmith shop was opened by William Schrader just west of Fee Fee Road. Martin Koch, Frank Weber, and George Seeger followed as the town's blacksmith and this, the last blacksmith shop on Olive, was closed in 1955.

In 1908, a Mr. Vogt and a Mr. Studt started what developed into one of the largest and most successful farm ma-

chinery agencies in St. Louis County. After several lean years, a Mr. Louis Koch acquired the business as the Deering Harvester dealer. In 1912, George Seeger bought the operation and with a modern building and good business practices, developed it into a leading dealer of International farm machinery and trucks. The business remains today under the direction of Mr. Seeger's son and grandson.

Postal service was implemented first through the Wright store, then through the Hezel Lumber Yard. Finally, the Creve Coeur Post Office took over the Rural Free Delivery Operation in 1904.

Indian Signs

Between the communities of Lake and Fern Ridge on the north side of Olive there is a homesite development called River Bend Estates. This subdivision is on the site of the old Kram Farm, a short distance from the Howard Bend Waterworks Station. The area is on the high bluffs overlooking the Missouri River. When an officer of the developing firm, a former school teacher, noticed certain evidences of ancient habitation, he recommended that archaeologists from the University of Missouri excavate in the area prior to the grading operations of the bulldozers. This was in early 1959.

With funds provided by the University of Missouri and Burton W. Duenke, the developer of the site, crews composed of personnel from the St. Louis area, Missouri University, and three Iowa colleges carefully excavated for three weeks.

The findings indicate that two structures were erected on the site. Each structure consisted of a three walled rectangle with the southeast side apparently open. The concentration of charred human bones and the lack of artifacts led the investigators to believe that these structures were not used as residences, but rather for some kind of ceremonial burning of the dead.

A limestone slab was uncovered and from the charred bones in the area, the scientists deduced that it was a crematorium. Evidence indicated that the bodies were cremated when they were in a partially decomposed condition which probably means the burning ceremony occurred a considerable time after death.

Other burials were discovered on the site; however, the bodies had been buried in the flesh and probably had no connection with the previously described cremation operation. Years of cultivation and the activity of rodents had left these

remains in a very disturbed condition and no artifacts were discovered in these graves.

The conclusions of the expedition are that the activity associated with the remains took place about 900 A. D. If this is true, these people would antedate the mound builders of Cahokia and were possibly their ancestors.

Lake

The town of Lake is approximately five miles west of the present Creve Coeur City Hall. At the beginning of its existence, the community was called Hog Hollow, a name which originated from the fact that wild swine were present in the area. These pigs would wander from the bluffs down to the bottoms presumably for water. Their route was soon traced by a hog path which was eventually developed into Hog Hollow Road. Some contemporary real estate interests have unsuccessfully attempted to have the name of the road changed to Fox Hollow.

Prior to the Civil War, farms dotted the land around this community. Some of the early farm owners included names such as Charles Stemme, Stevens, Kuhlman, Kram, Braun, and William "Squire" Ravens, a Justice of the Peace. It was in this area that Dick Jackson, one of the county's largest Negro landowners, lived.

Before 1900, the settlement's first school was erected in the bottoms near the present site of the St. Louis County Water Company. Shortly prior to the turn of the century, a one room school was established on the high ground on a tract donated by Miss Nannie Stevens. This building doubled as a Sunday School which had the personal interest of Miss Stevens, as she would gather the students each Sunday morning and conduct classes.

This school was called Lake School and the building was purchased by Mr. E.W. Zierenberg in the 1920's to be used as a warehouse. A two room brick school was constructed on the original site on the south side of Olive to accommodate the growing number of students. In 1948, Lake school consolidated with Fern Ridge District and the building was sold and converted into a residence.

About the time the county and city separated, a combination store, saloon, and post office was opened by Herman Schaeper, later operated by Schneider and Hensiek. In 1899, Mr. E. W. Zierenberg acquired the store, and for 50 years, conducted a successful mercantile business, interrupted tem-

porarily by a fire in 1920. E. W. Ziernberg's son, Ernest H., was a partner from the time of graduation from high school in 1926 until his death in 1949. The Eggers family took over the store and retained it until its closing.

A community serving farmers would be incomplete without a blacksmith shop. The first such service in Lake was provided by Mr. Mike Walters, followed by Peter Silver, William Dierberg, John Dierberg, and John Heckelmann. The year 1939 witnessed the establishment of a farm machinery shop by Mr. Zierenberg across the street from his store. The operation was expanded in 1949 and administered by Mr. Zierenberg's son, Herb.

In 1902 the St. Louis County Water Company purchased land in the bottoms near the river and established a steam pumping plant. Operations began in 1904 with three river pumps. The plant employed a large force and the company constructed ten or twelve residences nearby for employees. These houses were of three or four rooms, and rented for \$12 a month.

A railroad, which is the present Rock Island Line, brought freight and passenger trains into this area. In addition to serving the commuters of that era, these trains brought the mail and lime used in the water purification process. The grain and other products raised nearby would then be shipped from Lake on these same trains. It is reported that Mr. Zierenberg, who in addition to his business operations was a successful farmer, would use the rail service to import and distribute as many as 15 carloads of seed potatoes from the northern United States.

Bellefontaine

This town, on Olive just east of the intersection with Highway 40, was at one time known as Hilltown. The original name was probably assigned because of the early arrival of Mr. August Hill, who settled in the bottom land nearby in 1837. He moved to the high ground and opened a blacksmith shop on the south side of Olive, which he operated in conjunction with his farming interests.

Hilltown was unique for a town its size in that it had two general stores. Sometime between 1845 and 1850, a Mr. Fisher opened a store and was followed as proprietor by Mr. Rens, Mr. Peterson, Henry Sahm, Henry Hoch, and then by Mr. Rinkel and his brother-in-law, Mr. Zeilman. Mr. Rinkel's son, Nelson, currently operates a modern grocery store on the original site.

In the late 1850's, William Reinhardt opened a store on the corner of Olive and Schoettler Roads. His son-in-law, B. F. Andrea, followed Reinhardt, who sold in 1905 to R. B. Grey. Two years later, Grey sold the business to Adolph Hartung, who was followed as owner by Albert Kessler, Harry Ficke, and then upon Ficke's death in 1923, his wife operated the store for several years and eventually went out of business and sold the property.



(Left) — Home of Frederick Bates, second governor of Missouri. Gov. Bates is buried in a family plot near this house, overlooking the Missouri River east of Bellefontaine, Missouri. (Right) — Slave cabin on the same site.

Mail came to Bellemonte, as the original post office was designated, in 1851, by stage coach. The name was changed to Bellefontaine on February 3, 1863. All mail operations were transferred to the Chesterfield Post Office on February 10, 1907. It is interesting to note that at no time was Hilltown the official name of this community.

Marathon foot races are a part of Bellefontaine's past. The starting point was a mill west of the present town of Chesterfield, and the race followed a route over Olive through Bellefontaine and ended at the intersection of Olive and North and South Road.

The St. Louis Cycling Club sponsored bicycle races from the city, west on Olive to a finish line at Hoch's store. A marble marker in front of the present Rinkel's store identifies the spot which was the terminal of the long races of many years ago.

Chesterfield

Shortly after the War of 1812, a veteran of the conflict arrived by boat at Howell's Landing on the Missouri River. He established Chesterfield, the oldest settlement on Olive, which at that time was scarcely more than a winding cow path. His name was Colonel Justus Post.

The very river which made this fertile bottom land accessible to early settlers would at times do everything within

its power to destroy or drive off those same settlers. This inconsistency in the river's affection took the form of violent floods which washed away crops and homes, and occasionally, people.

But the sturdy pioneers of that day were not to be daunted. Others came who did not fear these elements and they held on to their possessions until the channel of the great Missouri was diverted and the devastation was halted. Olive Street Road reached from the Mississippi to the Missouri and it opened up an unknown avenue of traffic to those who were seeking new markets. This was necessary as the rich, fertile soil of this new area produced in abundance. The Old Bonhomme Road had supplied routes, but at times it was impassable. New routes, therefore, were sought.

The origin of the name Chesterfield is somewhat in question. Some say it was in honor of the variety of potato which was raised there. Others say the potato was named for Chesterfield. However, it is probably safe to say that the name originated from Lord Chesterfield, an Englishman, who may have visited the community.

Chesterfield includes a wide area. It is made up of many acres of gently rolling to hilly territory. Magnificent estates have always dotted the landscape. When Colonel Post arrived and laid out the village which skirted the Meramec and Bonhomme townships' boundary lines, he built a handsome residence for himself. He hired a St. Louis brickmaker to make the bricks and in addition to his own home, built several residences for others. Colonel Post, an enterprising man, built a saw-mill and with that the countryside began to flourish.

History tells us that Colonel Post was the founder of Chesterfield in 1816, but he was not the first resident. Lawrence Long, for whom Long Road is named, settled in the environs in 1797 which at an early date was known as Drew Station. The story goes that Post bought land by the mile and he was always buying land.

The truck gardens stretch out endlessly as they did long ago, except that introduction of farm machinery makes the task of caring for them much easier and more rapid. Fortunately the floods never conquered and the business of agriculture was done on a grand scale.

It should be mentioned also that one of the most beautiful parks in the state is located in the postal area of Chesterfield. Babler Park, on Highway 109, is composed of winding, picturesque roads. It contains many facilities and is visited by thousands each year.

Gumbo

The settlement called Gumbo is situated in the center of the Bonhomme Bottoms. The soil is rich and silty and when wet becomes gumbo mud: hence, the community's name. An early resident of this community, J. H. Coleman, migrated from Virginia and was twice elected to the Senate. While there, he sponsored improvements to hold the channel of the Missouri River against the bluffs of St. Charles County.



Gumbo and the surrounding area is a well known St. Louis County truck farming area. Cantaloupe harvesting with many of the farmers in this locality engaged in the growing of cantaloupes.

He reportedly appealed to land owners in the area to assist financially in the construction of flood control facilities, but to no avail. Some three-fourths of a century after the futile appeal of Senator Coleman, the government began a program aimed at the very thing he championed.

At the intersection of Highway 40 and Long Road was the Gumbo Inn. With the advent of the automobile, this spot became well known to the St. Louis community for its chicken dinners, and many families share memories of Sunday afternoon picnics and outings in the surrounding groves of trees.

The Spirit of St. Louis Airport has already gained recognition with its large development center for commerce and air travel. Many large corporations are moving their planes to this airport.



Family scene in rural Creve Coeur before 1900. The well (to the left) was a familiar sight and the source of drinking water for most people.



Creve Coeur families at a July 4th celebration before the turn of the century.

The People

"Man is the measure of all things"

Protagoras

Early Settlers

People are the most basic and fundamental ingredient of any community, and it is, in the final analysis, about people that histories are written. Most of the current residents of the Creve Coeur area have come to live here from other places in the state, nation, and world. A few families, however, can claim three or more generations' residence in the community.

A careful study of the records of early land ownership yields a mixture of Anglo-Saxon and German names, but oddly enough for a town with a French name, few if any surnames from France. In the years around the time when the City and the County separated, the following families were among those living in the general Creve Coeur area, to name but a few: Barbee, Bopp, Brouster, Craig, Dauster, Dautel, Denny, Deuser, Dierberg, Emerson, Fitzgerald, Graeser, Hackmann, Hezel, Hibler, Koch, Lanham, Lindner, Mason, Morgan, Murphy, Mosley, Niedringhaus, Pfister, Reynolds, Ross, Seeger, Sheble, Spoede, Stratmann, Studt, Tappmeyer, Wehrle and Young.

Originally, most of the settlers came to farm the land, but some immediately established business enterprises of various descriptions. Some farmed for a while, then opened shops. Others organized ambitious projects in later years such as a telephone company and a social and civic hall. Some were merchants, doctors, lawyers, teachers and public officials. Some were born in this country, some even in the Creve Coeur area, and some were sons of immigrants from Germany or Scotland. All had a part in Creve Coeur's history.

As indicated earlier, it would be impossible to discuss thoroughly the contributions of each and every individual, therefore, certain persons and events will be presented as examples. The few stories related herein are representative of the character and determination of the early settlers, but certainly not the entirety of it.

The grandfather of H. H. Spoede was given a land grant by President Andrew Jackson. Mr. Spoede donated some of this land for the site of a school. Present day Creve Coeur displays the Spoede name on both a school and a road.

The general area around Graeser Road and Olive was the site of a farm owned by Louis Graeser, where he bred and raised Poland China hogs. He and his sons, Theodore and Ernst, also spent some time manufacturing wire fence and weaving a high grade wool. The first Graeser came to Creve Coeur about 1860, and the family has been represented here since.

Jacob Studt, Jr., was born and raised in the Creve Coeur community. He received his early formal education at the Spoede School. His father owned a large farm which extended from Old ballas and Olive west to Emerson Road. Jacob and his father were partners in the Upper Creve Coeur Lake Park and the Big Creve Coeur Lake Park. For a time, the St. Louis County Fair was held annually at the Upper Park.

Dr. R. B. Denny was a teacher, St. Louis County school superintendent, public office holder, and successful physician. He entered the medical profession in 1912 after a successful career as an educator and school administrator. He practiced medicine until his death, and was the president of the Creve Coeur Mutual Telephone Company, a director of the Creve Coeur Farmer's Bank, and vice-president of the Eureka Bank. At one time Dr. Denny was elected to the Missouri General Assembly and in 1916, he was elected St. Louis County Coroner. His son, Chester, now deceased, followed in the medical field, practicing until his death in 1953 in the Creve Coeur area.

Ham Avenue bears the name of Dr. William J. Ham, and originally was the driveway to his residence. He practiced medicine in Creve Coeur from 1900 until his death in 1928.

The Hackmann family and its descendants have been residents of the area since the 1840's, at which time the paternal grandfather migrated to this country from Germany. Herman H. Hackmann gave up his prosperous farm and agricultural interests to become Treasurer of St. Louis County and later, County Judge. His original farm included in part, what is now the Creve Coeur Golf Club. Henry Hackmann, a cousin of the judge, farmed 37 acres and was an original stockholder in the Creve Coeur Farmers' Bank.

Clarence H. Hackmann, son of Herman, served as County Comptroller from 1938 to 1944 as an elected official, then eighteen more years by appointment. Two of the early pioneer

families were drawn together when Sophia Hackmann married Herman H. Spoede.

William F. Pfister moved into the area in 1864 and was appointed the first assessor of St. Louis County in 1877, then was elected to a subsequent two-year term in the same office. In 1886, Mr. Pfister was appointed by Governor Moorhouse to be the presiding judge. He was the third cashier of the Creve Coeur Farmers' Bank and was the first president of the Creve Coeur Farmers Club.

Dr. John D. Pfister, a son of William, was the first resident physician in Creve Coeur. He was active in the growth of the community, and was the first president of the Creve Coeur Bank, a position which he held until his death in 1912. Dr. Pfister's death was the first in the community which could be attributed to the automobile.

Henry M. Koch came to Creve Coeur in 1881 from Germany by way of Iowa and Texas. His brother was the famous Dr. Robert Koch, German physician and bacteriologist, a pioneer in the study and treatment of tuberculosis, which resulted in a hospital being named in his honor. His uncle, Adolph Biwend, was an early organizer of the Lutheran Church in the United States, and in association with a Professor Walther founded what is known as Concordia Seminary in St. Louis.

Henry Koch entered the general merchant business and his store was the forerunner of the present day Dierberg's Super Market. He was also one of the principal organizers of the bank, the Farmers' Hall Association, and the Mutual Telephone Company.

William Dierberg, an active and industrious citizen, was born in Creve Coeur in 1876 to parents who came to the United States from Germany and were later married in St. Louis County. The father, Frederick, engaged in the gathering of corn husks to be used for making mattresses, the business being so extensive at that time that Creve Coeur was known as "Shuckstown."

The first business venture of William Dierberg was in the operation of a blacksmith shop in University City, having previously apprenticed in Manchester, Missouri. Around the turn of the century, he moved to Lake, Missouri, again opening a blacksmith shop and later, the 18-mile roadhouse. In 1910, he returned to his hometown to operate the 14-mile roadhouse. He entered into partnership with H. M. Koch in the general mercantile business in 1914, and, from this venture, the contemporary Dierberg's Super Markets trace their origin.

In 1912, Mr. Dierberg became the second president of Creve Coeur Bank (then Creve Coeur Farmers' Bank), and

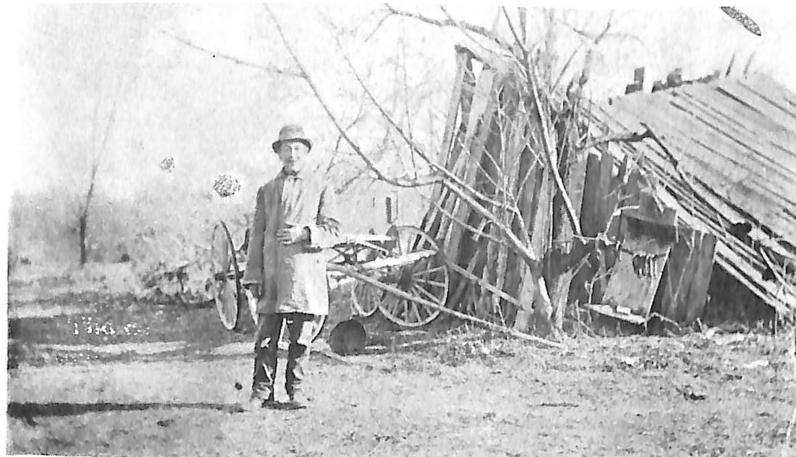
held this position until his death in 1945. Although not a political office holder, he took an active part in county government and pride in helping to make Creve Coeur a better place in which to live. He will be long remembered for the active part he played in efforts to curb the flooding of the Missouri River and the erosion of fertile farm land along its banks.

Philip Deuser was elected County Judge in 1888, and County Treasurer in 1890. Fred E. Mueller, who lived near Gumbo, was elected to the office of Public Administrator in 1916 and prosecuting Attorney in 1920. He later became a county judge and established an outstanding reputation as he served in this capacity for twenty-four years.

Norman J. Colman had a successful stock farm on Creve Coeur Mill Road from which he edited the *Colman's Rural World*, and bred race horses. He was a United States Commissioner from 1885 until 1889. He was appointed first U.S. Secretary of Agriculture by President Cleveland.

Mr. Colman's farm was sold to Ben Bush, a Missouri Pacific Railroad President, whose name was later used in connection with a local dairy operation. The site is now known as Old Farm Estates. Both Mr. Colman and Mr. Bush had rail stations near Creve Coeur Lake named in their honor.

Phillip S. Lanham, a noted auctioneer, was twice elected to the office of County Judge. Mr. Lanham suffered a permanent back injury when his horse fell on him while pursuing a deer down the bluffs of the Missouri River. Governor Frederick Bates, the second chief executive of Missouri, lived east



A shack, which was home to Mr. Mathews around 1900. Mr. Mathews owned the tract of land on which Creve Coeur City Hall is now located.

of Bellefontaine on Olive, and when he died in 1825 he was buried in a family plot on his farm.

Albert A. Wilmas gained county-wide recognition as a farmer and public office holder. He farmed near Chesterfield and in 1913 became an associate judge. He was elected for two terms as County Collector, and served a four-year term as County Sheriff.

John F. Willmann was elected County Sheriff and served from 1920 to 1924. Arnold Willmann, his son, moved to University City and became Sheriff in 1940. After serving for four years, he became County Coroner, an office which he held for twelve years. He now has a private law practice in Clayton, Missouri.



This home, located at the Northeast corner of Denny (Lindbergh) and Olive Street Road, is typical of homes in Creve Coeur before the 20th century.

Arthur C. Mosley served as County Sheriff for a total of twelve years, ending his role in that office in 1956. Before becoming sheriff, Mr. Mosley was twice elected a township constable. He was followed as sheriff by Orion Litzinger, a man with six years experience as a constable serving the Creve Coeur area.

Walter E. Miller, a native of the area which is now the Bellerive Country Club, served sixteen years as County Clerk. Maurice L. Stewart was elected to the St. Louis County Council in 1962, re-elected in 1966, and served as the chairman of this group. August Moreau served on the Monitor during the Civil War. He participated in the first battle of ironclad vessels and was the last surviving Union soldier from Missouri.

Clifford Cornelius was Presiding Judge of St. Louis County Court in 1938. In 1948, he became the Danish Consul in St. Louis and, in 1959, was elevated to knighthood by the King of Denmark.



First Creve Coeur Farmers Club, built in 1889. Lean-to porch, at the right, covered the two bowling lanes which were added in 1940.



This building served as the first place of business known in Creve Coeur. In 1822, this was a Roadhouse and Stage Coach Station — located on Olive Street Road just east of Highway 244.

Organizations

Most living creatures are by nature gregarious, in that they prefer to associate with like beings in flocks, herds, or groups. Man carries his desire to "belong" to a more refined level than do other forms of life. He is not content merely to belong to his tribe, his family, nation or world. He must develop and support all sorts of organizations and clubs within these larger groups. These organizations may be solely for fraternal purposes or they may be strictly for service, but usually are for some combination of both.

CREVE COEUR FARMERS CLUB

In an effort to promote the interests of horticulture and farming, the Creve Coeur Farmers Club was organized in 1887. Under the leadership of the first president, William F. Pfister, the Club developed into a social, as well as business and insurance organization, and in the early 1900's, nearly every family in the community was included in the membership. Their activities included a yearly strawberry festival, oyster supper, fish fry and farmers club picnic.

A sister corporation was formed in 1889 which purchased thirteen acres of land from the Old Lake House Farm Subdivision and thereon constructed a two-story hall. This building had bowling alleys in the basement, a dance hall with stage on the first floor, and meeting-dining room with a large adjoining kitchen on the second floor.

To raise funds for the building program, five thousand dollars in stock was sold. This stock was issued by the Creve Coeur Hall Association and was later purchased by the Creve Coeur Farmers Club. The Association was dissolved in 1948. A new building was constructed in 1949, and is now known as the Creve Coeur Country Club.

In the early days, even as they are today, the building and picnic grounds were rented to various organizations and individuals for public and private functions. The entire community enjoyed and profited from the many events occurring on the grounds during the more than seventy-five years of operation. Some of these activities include dances, picnics, plays, school graduations, movies, 4-H exhibits, and athletic contests. The organization permitted the construction of athletic facilities at the rear of the property, and in 1959, authorized

the members to build a swimming pool on the premises.

ROYAL NEIGHBORS OF AMERICA

This particular organization, a fraternal life insurance society, was chartered on June 30, 1902, and named the Victoria Camp 3124. There were twenty charter members and meetings were held in the Creve Coeur Farmers Club. The supreme office of the group was located in Rock Island, Illinois, and operated a home for the aged and dependent members in Davenport, Iowa. The Modern Woodmen, a brother organization, was founded at the same time, but became inactive in the late 1920's.

CREVE COEUR LIONS CLUB

This combination social-service club was chartered on January 15, 1950, by Charles Graeser and Martin Widmer. To support their fun and work, the Lions held carnivals, fish fries, barbecues, card parties, dances, horse shows, auctions, circuses, queen contests, and funivals. For their social activities, they have ladies nights, coronations, Christmas Parties, summer outings, wheel barrow parades and bus trips to Fairmount Race Track.

Past service projects of the Lions include these—to purchase a fire engine for the original Volunteer Fire Department, helped acquire lights for the ball park, escorted groups of boys on outings to the Lion's Den. They also donated milk, fuel, and eyeglasses to the less fortunate.

CREVE COEUR AMERICAN LEGION POST NO. 397

American Legion Post No. 397 was organized in December, 1945 through the efforts of Steve F. Raab, with the assistance of James Taylor, a World War I veteran and a member of Quentin Roosevelt Post No. 1 of St. Louis. The first meeting was held in the home of Joseph J. Faron. At the second meeting, which was held in the Creve Coeur Fire House, Steve Raab was elected Commander. The name Creve Coeur Memorial Post was chosen in honor of the five Creve Coeur men who lost their lives in World War II; William Frey, Tony Schnarr, Raymond Hackmann, Jack Knoche, and Kenneth Lyvers. The permanent Charter was granted on December 26, 1945. The Post's activities through the years included Legion Baseball Teams, Oratorical Contests, aid to needy veterans, Boy's

State and Girl's State, Boy Scouts, and entertainment for Creve Coeur children.

The first property purchased by the Post was on the south-east corner of Olive Street Road and Trojan Lane at the price of \$9,000. In 1952, when the schools consolidated, the Post, under Commander James Townsend, bought the Weber School at Olive Street and Ballas Roads for \$22,000. The mortgage was burned in 1965. This is still the Post home. Two members who held district offices in American Legion work are Alvin Brandes and Wilfred Rohan.

In 1946 the Post Auxiliary was formed and Mrs. Isabel Mosley was the first president. This organization has been very energetic in cooperating with Post activities, aiding the disabled at the Veteran's Hospitals, and being a leader in County Poppy Day sales. Mrs. June Stolte was elected vice president of the State of Missouri American Legion Auxiliary in 1966 and became president in 1967.

ROSE HILL MASONIC LODGE

This group had its origin in 1888 when the Masons living in the neighborhood of the Rose Hill Sub-division decided they needed a more conveniently located lodge facility. The new lodge was chartered and named in 1891. The corner stone for the temple was laid on May 26, 1892, at a location on the northwest corner of Hamilton and Maple Avenues.

The lodge had eighteen charter members. Currently, the headquarters of this organization is at the Rose Hill Temple located at 11122 Olive Boulevard. This modern and attractive building was dedicated on May 5, 1963.

CREVE COEUR KIWANIS CLUB

The Kiwanis in Creve Coeur were organized in May of 1964. Paul Strickland was active in starting this club and was its first president. In addition to other civic projects, the club holds the Khoury League high on its list of interests. The meetings are weekly at 7:00 A.M. for breakfast at Howard Johnson's restaurant on Lindbergh Blvd.

CREVE COEUR—OLIVETTE ROTARY CLUB

"Service above self" is the motto of all Rotary clubs throughout the free world. The Olivette club is committed to all the high principles of Rotary International. Although the club

formerly met at a location in Olivette, the Creve Coeur Community is included in its membership area. The Rotarians meet each Thursday for lunch at Howard Johnson's on Lindbergh Boulevard.

CREVE COEUR DAYS

Creve Coeur Days Inc., a non-profit organization, had as its first president Warren Hecht, and held its first annual and very successful three day festival May 18, 19 and 20 of 1967. It has proposed to display the cultural and fun loving attributes of the community during an annual three day festival. The first festival had 7500 guests.

VIGNETTES

The old Olive Street Road was used to test automobiles by early dealers as they put the cars through their paces before selling them to customers.

During the Civil War period in Creve Coeur, whiskey sold for thirty-five cents a gallon, and some land sold for as low as fourteen dollars per acre. Union troops were stationed along Olive to prevent the Confederate forces from moving supplies along the route.

The John Hezel family, later of Creve Coeur, operated a dairy farm on Delmar Boulevard in University City where the City Hall now stands.

The first deed recorded in St. Louis County was for the transfer of 13.61 acres of land from J. A. Ross to Campbell Glenn for a consideration of fourteen hundred dollars.

A Mr. Mathews, who owned the land where the Creve Coeur City Hall now stands, lived as a hermit in a shack on Olive and died in a cave within a stone's throw of the City Hall, where his body was not found for three weeks.

Around the turn of the century, hobos would wander along Olive looking for part-time work on the adjacent farms. They would spend the nights sleeping and camping in the nearby wooded areas.

A Captain Berry, an early pioneer in the balloon industry, conducted related activities that originated on a site in the vicinity of Craig Road and Olive.

Alfred Hauser and Ernest Maile operated house-to-house butcher wagons before the first World War.

A man named Tom Squabs lived for years in the area and made the claim that he came from No Man's Land.

The Lake House was used as a stage coach stop and thereafter as a residence for many families prior to being occupied as an implement company.

Before the telephone, news such as a death, was dispatched thru the rural area by someone riding a horse.

Henry Wagner, early Creve Coeur mailman, carried the mail on his back to and from the railroad station. He was a familiar sight in the area for twenty years.

The Creve Coeur Bank was robbed twice in the early 1930's, and one of the bandits was captured in Paducah, Kentucky.

The homes of Creve Coeur residents have been enhanced by the talents of the Galen Decorating Co. for over three generations headed by Frank, Fred and Charles in that order.

Miss Inez Specking while living in Creve Coeur near the Missouri Pacific railroad tracks and Emerson Avenue, wrote and published several books including "What Else Is There", which pertains particularly to the people and area of Creve Coeur.

During the early 1900's, and until 1940, William Moeller owned and operated a nursery on Ladue Road. He cultivated and sold many fine shrubs, fruit and ornamental shade trees throughout the country and state.

The story was often told by early settlers that Jesse and Frank James, notorious train robbers, hid out in a wooded area near a spring located in what is now the Park West Subdivision.

The first known place of business in Creve Coeur was the Lake House, which served as an inn and roadhouse, dating back to 1822. This was the first known stop for stage coaches, and many hunters and traveling men could get overnight lodging here.

The current average family income for St. Louis County is nine thousand dollars.

One-half of the families in present day St. Louis County own more than one automobile.

The average home in present day St. Louis County is valued at more than fifteen thousand dollars.



Steam engine, used for threshing of grains and clover seed.



Commission House in Creve Coeur, operated by Thomas Snyder in 1905.



Soap-making, using excess grease and fat from cooking, was an early family custom.



Butchering hogs by the farm family.

Cultural Institutions

"Instead of dirt and poison, we have rather chosen to fill our hives with honey and wax; thus furnishing mankind with the two noblest things which are sweetness and light."

Johnathan Swift

CHURCHES

Many churches of various denominations grace the contemporary Creve Coeur scene. Each has a history, some, however, of only a few years. This discussion will concentrate on information about the churches which were established by the early settlers and those near the present day city. Even though they might not receive intensive coverage in this history, it is acknowledged and hoped that all area churches will continue to shape and direct the spiritual and moral fiber of the community.

FEE FEE BAPTIST CHURCH

The three earliest churches in the general area were not actually located in Creve Coeur, but were attended by the town's settlers. Fee Fee Baptist Church was organized in 1807 by Rev. Thomas F. Musick. According to some records and writings, it is possible that this was the first Protestant church to be organized in Missouri.

BONHOMME PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

In 1816, the Bonhomme Presbyterian Church was organized and located on Conway Road. The original log church was replaced by a stone building in 1841 and the basement was used for a school until public schools were established. Some of the early members were the Hiblers and the Masons, families for whom roads in the area were named. Hibler Road ran west of Ballas and is now known as Ladue Road.

PARKWAY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Zion Congregation was organized in 1838 when regular Sunday services were held by Rev. E. L. Nollau in the home of a Mr. Preiss or in an English church opened for the membership's disposal at Clayton and Ballas Roads. When a site was to be selected for the permanent building, the majority of

members voted to locate on Manchester Road. The members living north of Conway Road decided to establish a separate church in 1843, and although it was an independent church, it was served by Zion's pastor until 1859. The Zion Church which was for many years called the Zion German Evangelical Church is now known as the Parkway United Church of Christ and is located at 2840 North Ballas Road.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

When the Zion Congregation split in 1843, those in the north established a church in Stratmann on the corner of Warson and Olive. This was the first church organized in what is now the incorporated city limits of Creve Coeur. The church was first called the The German United Lutheran Reformed St. Paul's Congregation and a log building was erected on an acre of ground which had been purchased for twenty dollars. The original building was covered with siding and served the membership until 1897 when a new brick church was built.

A parsonage was erected in 1857 and replaced in 1933. This served as the minister's home until 1967 when a new parsonage was completed on Warson Road, a short distance north of Olive. The church has a cemetery on a ten acre tract of land which was purchased in 1901, and is located at Olive and Warson Road.

In 1937, a new church hall was erected to be used for Sunday School, church meetings, and social functions. In 1956, when the community began its rapid growth, larger educational facilities were added and a new sanctuary was built in 1961. Many descendants of the early founders are still active in the church including the families of Appel, Graeler, Litzinger, Hackmann, and Grotzepeter.

Members of the original congregation were German in origin and worked hard to make the church one of the two largest of its kind in the Missouri Valley Synod with a current membership of more than eleven hundred. The present minister is Rev. William C. Gabler who came in 1946, replacing Rev. E. L. Mueller who had served the church as pastor beginning in 1916.

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Lutheran pastor named Rev. J. F. Buenger led worship services for a group of twenty-one families on June 9, 1844, and that was the beginning of Immanuel Lutheran Church. Worship was conducted in private homes in the beginning until

Peter Lind, as a gift, gave land for a church site, and a building was constructed thereon in 1846. The congregation was originally called the Evangelical Congregation U. A. C. on the Old Bonhomme Road, but became Immanuel in April of 1868.

Dedicated and capable pastors led an ambitious and loyal membership into a beautiful and inspirational new sanctuary on December 18, 1955. The pastor at the time of the dedication was Rev. Walter J. Hoffmann, and the church currently serves a growing community at a location on Olive just east of Warson.

ST. MONICA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Prior to the establishment of St. Monica's in 1872, Creve Coeur residents of the Roman Catholic faith would bring a priest from a neighboring village on Sundays, and services were held in private homes. One of the homes known to have hosted these services was that of the Hezels on Mason Road. Many of the relatives of some early founders still live in the area. A few of the family names on early church records include Hezel, Raab, Oge, Wehrle, Elgasser, Linkogel, Fussner, Muckermann, Vohsen, Mosley, Ortmann, Kaatmann, Kraemer, Hoehn, Uelk, Stock, Fitzwater, Wehner and Tangelmann.

The original church was administered as a mission by various Franciscan Fathers until it became a parish in 1880, at which time Father Diel became pastor. A rectory was begun in 1881 and in 1889, the cornerstone for a new building was laid. This building was to serve the parish until 1961 when the present stone church was occupied.

In the early 1960's, population growth dictated the division of the parish, and four new ones were formed out of the original St. Monica's parish. These are St. Blaise (1961), St. Richard's (1963), Incarnate Word (1967), and St. Anselm to be built later. St. Anselm services are now being held in the Priory School on Sundays and at St. John's Mercy Hospital during weekdays. St. Monica's has a membership at this writing of 750 families embracing almost thirty-one hundred people.

MOUNT ZION METHODIST CHURCH

The first Protestant church to be organized in what is now the business district of Creve Coeur, was Mount Zion Methodist Episcopal Church South, established in the early 1870's. The original site was on the corner of Old Ballas and Olive. The property was purchased from Jacob Studt by James Penn,

Joseph Mosley, Thomas Boon, Phillip Lanham, and Charles Young. A building was erected at a cost of two thousand dollars plus four hundred and fifty dollars for the land. The original venture was under the direction of Rev. Walter D. Shumate and some seventy-five members.

During the next ninety years, the membership varied from a low of twenty-seven in 1947 to a high of four hundred eighty-five in 1965. In 1960, the church property was sold. The cemetery was moved to Hiram Memorial Park on Mason Road. The Essen Hardware Store and Clayton Federal Savings and Loan Association now have business operations at the original church location. In 1959, vesper services were held honoring the older active members, among whom were Dr. R. B. Denny's family and Mrs. Charles Barbee who celebrated her ninety-fourth birthday in 1966.

While Rev. Orville Johnston was the pastor, a new church and educational building were erected on a four and one-half acre site purchased from the Herbert Kopadt family. The new facility is located on Craig Road and the first service was held there on August 5, 1962. The need for more facilities resulted in an addition to the educational building in 1964. Present Pastor is Rev. Wm Mathae.

OUR LADY OF THE PILLAR CATHOLIC CHURCH

Originally, Our Lady of the Pillar was a chapel of ease serving Catholic families who belonged to the neighboring parishes of St. Joseph in Clayton and St. Monica's in Creve Coeur. In 1938, Archbishop John Glennon requested the Society of Mary to assume direction of a new parish to be based on the northeast corner of the Chaminade College property.

The new parish, like all of St. Louis County, developed rapidly and many building and expansion programs have been undertaken by the membership. At this writing, there are six hundred Catholic families in the parish and four hundred fifty children in the elementary school.

PARKWAY BAPTIST CHURCH

Parkway Baptist Church had its origin on September 23, 1954, when the Hanley Road Baptist Church appointed a committee to begin a mission in western St. Louis County. Interest and support were gained from both local residents and from the St. Louis Baptist Association. The congregation

met for a while in a temporary location at 9804 Olive. Ministers from the parent church conducted services until March 1, 1956, when Rev. Dale Allen became the full-time pastor, a position which he currently holds.

The present location of the church is on the northeast corner of Ross and Olive. The facilities include a large modern brick sanctuary and attached educational building and offices. The membership has grown from the original seventeen to nearly six hundred with a Sunday School enrollment of almost seven hundred.

ST. TIMOTHY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

In 1958, through the efforts of farsighted planners, five acres of land were purchased on the east side of Mason Road, one-half mile south of Olive for the future site of an Episcopal church. Rev. William Thomas was the first pastor and with fifteen original adult communicants, chose to call the church St. Timothy's.

After meeting in a variety of places for worship services, the present building was constructed in 1961. It is a church-in-the-round, and provides a unique worship experience. In 1966, Rev. Ernest Hunt became pastor and the church currently has a strength of two hundred fifty communicants and about four hundred baptized people attending.

TEMPLE ISRAEL

The Creve Coeur community boasts one of the nations most attractive and unique houses of worship in the form of the new Temple Israel. This magnificent structure is a tribute to the congregation and its leadership. Located now on the corner of Ladue and Spoede Roads, Temple Israel moved from St. Louis to the new building in 1962.

The new Temple has a large auditorium adjoining the impressive sanctuary, and the collapsible wall which separates the two can be moved when holidays and other special events require more seating than exists in the sanctuary. In addition, there is attached a thirty-six room school facility. The Temple is visited by many non-Jewish people regularly and is, justifiably, the pride of those supporting the principles of Reform Judaism.

TEMPLE EMANUEL

This sanctuary of Reform Judaism had its beginnings in the minds of concerned people in the late 1940's. It was not until 1962, however, that the congregation was able to move

into facilities of their own. In the interim, a private school served for a time as the spiritual meeting place. A beautiful structure designed around the Star of David now stands at 12166 Conway Road and was officially dedicated in January, 1963.

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST

On February 4, 1921, a meeting of Christian Scientists was held in a store building on Delmar Boulevard, and the First Church of Christ, Scientist, University City, was organized. The first services were conducted in the store on March 6, 1921, and a reading room and Sunday School were established shortly thereafter.

The original church building was started in 1924 on the corner of Trinity Avenue and Delmar Boulevard. In 1958, the property was sold and the congregation met at the Clayton Masonic Temple until a five acre tract was purchased and a new church built on the corner of Ladue and Graeser Roads. The charter of the church was amended in 1962, changing the name to First Church of Christ, Scientist, Creve Coeur, Missouri. Construction of the new building was started in May, 1962. It was completed and the first services held on May 24, 1963.

HAMILTON CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Originally known as the West End Christian Church, this congregation was organized June 2, 1895, by Rev. Othneil A. Barthelomew. He visualized the need for expanded facilities to serve the then new and growing Rose Hill area of west St. Louis. The first building was on the southwest corner of Hamilton and Plymouth Avenues. In 1903, the name was changed to Hamilton Avenue Christian Church.

The church relocated in 1905 and served the area for fifty-seven years. With the membership continuing a westward movement, the church also moved west to new quarters in June, 1963. Presently, the church stands at 10545 Old Olive and the pastor is Rev. Paul Bolman who has served the congregation since 1952.

HOPE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A site of five acres was purchased in 1963 at 1443 Ross Avenue for a proposed church unit and in September of that

year, the pastor and his family moved into a manse two blocks from the building site. In 1964, after being chartered by the Presbytery, the 123 member congregation began worshiping in a newly constructed residence. The new building is expected to be ready for occupancy soon, and then, the current membership of 215 will have a sanctuary of its own.

IVY CHAPEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

It was in the home of Robert Graham that this congregation had its beginnings. A group of interested people met there in the early months of 1964 to discuss the possibility of opening a new church. Rev. Ellsworth S. Ewing was the first pastor and services were held for a time in a shopping center and a swim club. The church was chartered into the United Church of Christ on May 13, 1964.

The congregation purchased six acres of land on Woods Mill Road, a half mile south of Olive for a church site. The building was completed and dedicated on November 14, 1965. In the few years of its existence, the church membership has grown steadily and now numbers one hundred.

HOLY CROSS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church is a Mission Congregation of the Lutheran Church in America. Its beginning was in the fall of 1963 under the direction of Rev. David Reynolds, who conducted services in the Rose Hill Masonic Lodge Hall. The congregation organized on April 26, 1964, with seventy-six confirmed members and a total baptized membership of one hundred fifty.

Rev. Reynolds resigned in September, 1965, to become a Navy Chaplain. In January, 1966, Rev. Charles Haney became the pastor. The congregation currently meets at the Fern Ridge School on Olive. The church building site is at 13014 Olive and construction is planned for 1967 and 1968. Present membership is one hundred thirty-five confirmed members and a total of two hundred seventy-two baptized members.

IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

This church had its origin in the spring of 1890 and was officially organized in September, 1891. The first pastor was Addison Moore in 1892. The first permanent building was dedicated in October of 1892.

On March 22, 1959, after a long line of competent and dynamic ministers, Charles R. Dunning became the nineteenth pastor. Under his leadership, in November, 1960, the congregation decided to relocate to a six acre tract on Old Olive St. Road west of Lindbergh in Creve Coeur. Services were conducted in the Suburban Teachers' Building and at the Willowbrook School until the new church was completed and occupied on December 20, 1964.

JEWISH TRADITIONAL CONGREGATION

The Jewish Traditional Congregation was organized in 1965, and met at the Rose Hill Masonic Lodge. Since its incorporation, the congregation has grown from nine families to nearly one hundred. Rabbi Milton Polin conducted services every Sabbath at 10:00 A.M. and on the third Friday evening at 8:00. A newly acquired location is at 12437 Ladue Road. Rabbi L. Finkelstein is Director of the Congregation.

NEIGHBORING AREA CHURCHES

ASCENSION PARISH

The Ascension Parish now based at Chesterfield, had its origin at Centaur, eight miles to the west. The early records are vague, but one baptismal record is dated December 14, 1903. A history of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, however, places the opening date at October 18, 1908, when Rev. Charles Keller said the first Mass. It was not until May 29, 1924, that the church in Chesterfield was completed and dedicated. The current membership is 600, embracing 180 families. The church operates an elementary school which enrolls 150 pupils in eight grades.

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The St. John's congregation originally met in Lake, or Hog Hollow as it was first known by some. They met every two weeks for a while in a hall owned by Mr. Herman Schaeper, and moved to the Henry Sahm Hall in Bellefontaine on January 21, 1892.

The present church site on the south side of Olive was decided upon by the membership on March 5, 1893. The land was donated by Gottlieb Albrecht and the building was dedicated October 15, 1893. A new educational building was dedicated in 1959, and a new church occupied in November, 1962.

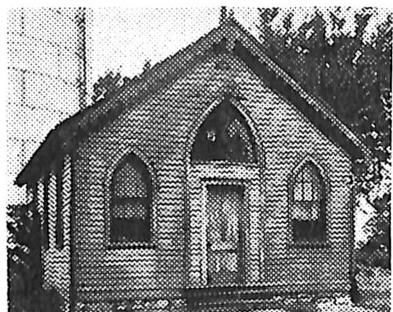
during the ministry of Siegfried A. Schmiechen who assumed that position in June of 1942.

ST. THOMAS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The first worship service of the St. Thomas congregation, Gumbo, was conducted on October 6, 1907. It was led by the pastor of St. John's Evangelical Church, the Rev. Gustav A. Zimmer. The cornerstone of the present church on Long Road was laid in November, 1908, and the building was officially dedicated May 23, 1909.

The present membership consists of eighty families, including one hundred forty-five communicant members and eighty church school students. The congregation is presently engaged in a relocation program which will see the construction and occupation of a hilltop facility, on seventeen acres of land situated south of Wild Horse Creek Road.

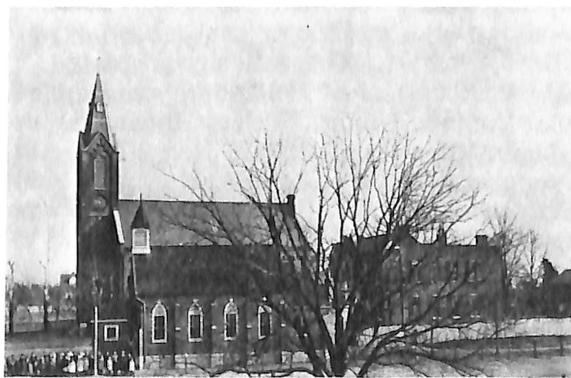
PIONEERS IN FAITH



The first building of St. Paul's Evangelical Church, at the corner of Watson and Olive Street Roads.



Mt. Zion Methodist Church, built in the early 1870's. About 1960, a new site was purchased on Craig Road and a new church constructed.



Building to the front of picture was the first St. Monica Church, built in 1872, which served the parish until 1889, when the church standing next to it was completed. The second building was razed in 1961 to make room for a third church. Rectory (right rear) was built in 1881.

CHURCH OF THE OPEN WORD

The Church of the Open Word, 1045 Dautel Lane, Creve Coeur, was built in 1957-58 by a congregation which has existed continuously in St. Louis since 1842. Their previous church home was on Spring Avenue in St. Louis. It is a Bible-centered Christian Church which draws its particular understanding of the christian faith from the writings of Emanuel Swedenborg, the 18th century scientist, philosopher and seer. Although the congregation is small in number, members come from all over greater St. Louis to attend. The pastor is Rev. Wm. R. Woofenden.

SCHOOLS

GENERAL

Each generation of parents seems to be determined to better prepare their children for the problems of living than they themselves were prepared. To accomplish this, a system of schools has been developed so that the delicate task of training children is hopefully entrusted to specialists who are skilled in the processes of instruction. Within the broad general system, there are three major types of schools which function in the American society.

The majority of school age youngsters attend public schools, some attend church related schools, and a small percentage attend privately operated schools. Each of these three types can be found in the Creve Coeur community, and each has made a significant contribution to the growth and development of the area.

SCHOOLS, PUBLIC

Hibler (Locust Grove) School. This school was created in 1846 at a meeting in the home of William Hogg, Jr. The first trustees included Andrew Hibler, William Hibler, James Fitzgerald, George Loper, Clerk, and William Hogg, Collector of Taxes. The site for the school was described as: "on land belonging to William Hogg, Jr., near spring used by George Loper." The contract for building the school was awarded to Alex Kinkead.

Taxes were levied by the school in 1847 and again in 1849 to defray the cost of building. Two additional levies were created in 1850 and in 1852 to pay off the district debt. The title to the school was received by a special act of the Legis-

lature and removal to a new site was voted upon on March 31, 1857. A tax of three hundred dollars was voted to erect a new school, not to cost over one thousand dollars, and an additional one hundred ten dollars could be borrowed for desks, seats, and a fence. The earliest known teacher was Alex McElhinney who served until 1857.

Fern Ridge School. The site of this school was on the tract of land of the old Dr. Bierne Subdivision, later owned by F. W. Wright. Mr. Wright donated the land in 1885 for the purpose of building a school. The following year, a school was constructed and named for the donor of the land. The first teacher was Miss Dolly Pfister, and she was followed by Miss Mary Murphy, a sister of the prominent St. Louis educator, George T. Murphy.

The school burned in 1888 as the result of being struck by lightning. A new building was erected and used until 1903 at which time it was condemned and sold to J. J. Braun of Fern Ridge. A site considered to be more desirable, yet close to the original, was selected from the Gallagher Subdivision and purchased from the heirs. A new building furnished with "modern equipment" was constructed in 1904 and was named Fern Ridge School. Records of 1911 indicate that Mrs. Dorothy McKay, the former Miss Dolly Pfister, was the teacher, that she had been there for ten years, that the total enrollment was forty-five, and that the graduating class that year totaled ten.

On June 11, 1947, Fern Ridge organized as a six director district. On June 28 of the same year, Lake School was annexed, and on the following July 28, Bellefontaine School was also annexed. In 1952-53 the district had two schools with an enrollment of three hundred eighteen students, and employed eleven teachers. A special election on May 8, 1954, resulted in the consolidation of Weber, Fern Ridge, and Mason Schools, and on June 15, 1954, the board of education officially adopted the name, Parkway Consolidated School District.

Spoede School. Originally, this school was located on the Dauster property at the southeast corner of what is now Spoede and Ladue Roads. A log school existed on this site prior to the Civil War. The earliest available records indicate that the property was deeded from Norman H. Spoede and his wife in 1868 to the public school board for the sum of one hundred twenty-five dollars for a new school site on Spoede Road.

A one room schoolhouse was erected and used for the eight

grades until a new structure was built in 1948. It remained a part of the Missouri Common School District until a group of interested patrons successfully petitioned for annexation to the Ladue School District on March 3, 1951. During the 1965-66 school year, Spoede was the largest elementary school in the district.



Spoede School, located at the southeast corner of Spoede and Ladue Roads, after the Civil War.

Weber School

Prior to 1886, Spoede School District provided a Branch School in a private home, which served the pupils of Creve Coeur who lived west of Mosley Road.

Early in 1886, a meeting was held to purchase an acre of land from the Emerson Estate for the sum of \$150.00. This location was northwest of the intersection of New Ballas and Olive Street Roads. After acquiring the property, a contract was signed with Mr. Henry Schreve to build the first school, a frame building, for \$635.00. John G. Weber served as the first District Clerk and the school was named in his honor. Miss Grace Brouster was employed as the first teacher, with an enrollment of 63 pupils. The first record of her salary was for \$53.00 per month in the year 1888.

Ludwig Sahm was appointed a Commissioner by the new district to assess the property of the Spoede District. Desks were divided by mutual consent of both districts.

The resulting frame structure remained in service until 1909 when a two room brick school was built. The frame structure was then moved to the rear of the brick building.



Weber School and pupils in 1897.

In 1910, the school was designated as District 29, Weber School, by the County Court. Around this time, with an enrollment of less than 100, a two year high school program was added and this practice continued until 1916. Bus service was then available, and students were transported to Clayton and Eureka High Schools. In 1915, when W. C. Fowler was the teacher, the graduates included Johan Buller, Henry Bopp, William Dierberg, Clarence Kaufmann, and Robert Koch.

The School District of Weber was organized as a six director district on April 1, 1952, and the following year, had ninety-three pupils and four teachers.

On the eighth of May, 1954, Weber School patrons voted to become a part of what later was named the Parkway Consolidated School District. The Parkway junior and senior high schools opened in September, 1957, and currently the school district is experiencing a growth pattern without parallel in the history of St. Louis County.

ARCHIVES

SCHOOLS, PAROCHIAL AND PRIVATE

Immanuel Lutheran School. The parent church was founded in 1844 and immediately, the pastor was charged with certain educational responsibilities for the children of the membership. It was not until 1882, however, that a permanent brick

school was completed at a cost of three hundred sixty-nine dollars. Around the turn of the century, ladies from the congregation began assisting the pastor in the teaching functions.

Shortly after 1900, a teacher other than the minister was employed. German, as a primary subject, was discontinued during the years of World War I. A period was again experienced when a full time teacher was not available, and the pastors with lay help did the teaching until Martin F. Mueller was employed as the teacher in 1922, a position he was to hold for the next twenty-two years.

Dedication on the part of the pastors, teachers, and members of the congregation have enabled the school to survive and progress. The present school on Olive represents a point in a tradition rich with historical significance.

St. Monica's School. The exact time of the beginning point of the school is not clear. References are made in the church records to painting the school in 1888 and again in 1890. Students are reported to have come from as far away as Schuetz and Lackland Roads in the early years. One source indicates that the school opened September 10, 1875, with thirty-two students under the direction of a lay teacher. At some point in time, not clearly defined, The Ursuline Sisters arrived to teach.

The school has continued to grow despite the fact that several new parishes have been carved from St. Monica's original territory. The present day St. Monica's School has an enrollment of around seven hundred students, at one time offered two years high school, and is taught by the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood.

Chaminade College. This Catholic Boarding and Day School for Boys is located on Lindbergh Boulevard, just south of Ladue Road. It was incorporated as an institution by Father Weckesser and associates of the Society of Mary. The school was named after Father Chaminade who founded the Society of Mary in Bordeaux, France, in 1817, and is the first school to be so named.

St. Paul Church School. The St. Paul Church located on the northwest corner of Olive and Warson decided in 1858 to elect a pastor who was willing to serve as a teacher in addition to his preaching duties. The church operated a two year course in religious education until 1920. This course

was designed for children who had completed grade school or those who dropped out after the sixth grade.

Rohan-Woods School. This school was originally founded in 1937 at Delmar and Warder, but came to Creve Coeur in 1957. It is on a site of eleven acres at the corner of Olive and Ballas, and has a main building with eight classrooms. It is co-educational and enrolls approximately one hundred eighty students from junior kindergarten through the sixth grade. The staff is composed of eleven full-time and four part-time teachers.

The school has as its goals the provision of a sound basic education in an independent school and the preparation of students for the successful completion of their secondary education. Basic subjects are stressed and modern methods and techniques are employed throughout the program.

St. Louis Montessori Academy. This school began in 1948 under the name of Hansel and Gretel as a day care program for pre-school children. Kindergarten and first grade were added, and in 1963, the school changed its name to the Saint Louis Montessori Academy. After a year of preparation and research, the school began the transition to the Montessori method. In the fall of 1963, the operations were moved from Glendale to the present location at 11435 Olive.

Countryside Day School. This school was founded in 1962 and is located at 12452 Olive. It is a co-educational pre-school institution for youngsters between the ages of three and five. Most students attend only one-half day, but classes are in session from 7:30 in the morning until 5:30 in the evening to accommodate working parents.

DeSmet High School. The first classes in this new high school for boys were conducted in the fall of 1967. The location is on New Ballas Road and the school is under the supervision of the Jesuits (Society of Jesus).

In the future, the proposed and required expansion of the Parkway School District will cause changes and additions to the local school scene. The growing population will necessitate increased educational plants.

HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL CENTERS

The mid-1960's has witnessed the occupation of two large hospital facilities in the Creve Coeur Area. St. John's Mercy Hospital moved from its former St. Louis City location to

modern attractive quarters on Ballas Road north of Highway 40. The hospital is situated on 90 acres, is operated by the Sisters of Mercy, and boasts its own helicopter landing port. This 610-bed facility was opened to the public on December 17, 1963.

Missouri Baptist Hospital occupied a new 322-bed building south of Highway 40, also on Ballas Road, on December 30, 1965. The former site of Missouri Baptist was, like St. John's, in the city of St. Louis.

At the present time, Faith Hospital West is being constructed on a 95-acre site at the southeast corner of Mason and Olive. The new building will have approximately 119 beds and will be operated as a satellite of the existing Faith Hospital in the City of St. Louis. The attractive surroundings, the westward movement of the metropolitan population center, and the network of good roads and highways make this area very desirable for hospital locations.

Creve Coeur's first medical center was opened in 1955. It was located at the corner of Olive and Old Ballas in the building vacated by the Creve Coeur Bank. Dr. Robert Hughes was a key figure in this venture and he and several associates moved in 1961 to a new facility at 11745 Olive. Several other Medical Buildings have since been erected and are now being used to accommodate the many physicians and dentists who are practicing in this area.



Faith Hospital West is being built on the corner of Mason and Olive Street Road.

The Economy

*"Keep thy shop and thy
shop will keep thee."*

George Chapman

INTRODUCTION

When the first settlers arrived, their economy was one of self-sufficiency. The family unit raised, produced, created, and consumed whatever were its needs. With the man of the house in command, and by his directing the efforts of his charges, a relatively independent kind of survival was achieved.

It is not, however, the nature of man to keep his family isolated from other people, and so when additional families would settle nearby, almost immediate, though rudimentary, cooperative economic ventures came into existence. Two men would jointly build a home on the land of one, then in turn, they would cooperatively harvest their crops.

In the basic pursuit of something to eat, men have organized themselves into specific functions through which they could achieve the most for themselves. If a man were exceptionally clever in anticipating the supplies of and the demands for crops, he could gather more wealth by devoting his full time to speculation rather than raising and harvesting these crops. The man who demonstrated unusual ability in carpentry or in nailing shoes onto the hooves of horses would begin to spend more and more time providing these services to his neighbors, and they in turn would pay him for these services with money or something else of value.

As the population became more numerous and sophisticated, the economy became more complex and interwoven. People began to specialize and focus their efforts upon very limited operations within the overall economy. Men have arrived at a point now, where, in the attempt to provide food for their families, most of them never go near a farm or a dairy. They function completely outside the food producing operations, and are paid with something they can exchange for the required food.

This part of the history of Creve Coeur will be devoted to the quest of people for the things they need and want. It begins with the basic drive for satisfying hunger. This same quest is ground and polished to a gloss which enables man to achieve a culture and civilization of the highest known order.

USE OF THE LAND

The first people to arrive in the Creve Coeur area were farmers. Large tracts were put under the plow, and wheat, corn, and hay became the principal crops. The corn and hay were used to feed livestock, while the wheat was sold to milling companies. With the cash received from the mills, the farmer could purchase the things which he was unable to produce and he could pay his taxes.

Although this area was never a primary producer of livestock, a certain amount of animal raising was necessary to provide meat, dairy products, transportation, and a source of work power for the farmer. Before the development of power driven vehicles and farm implements, horses and mules were in great demand for transportation and for work on the farm.

Ten years before the turn of the century, Mr. William Mosley was active in the business of mule and horse trading. This enterprise was continued by his sons, Frank and Eugene, and lasted until 1934. The horse trading Mosleys were known throughout the central United States as they came into contact with others in the same business when purchasing or selling at the East St. Louis Stockyards.

A slight stir was caused in the community when in 1918 the Mosleys imported three carloads of wild bronchos from the western plains. During World War I, Eugene Mosley purchased horses and mules for the United States Government to be used for military purposes.

Sometime after 1920, Ben Wirth engaged in horse and mule trading at a location on Clayton Road, known as Altheim. Ben Uelk followed this business in Creve Coeur, and retired in 1957 as the last of the local horse traders.

The Creve Coeur Poultry and Bee Farm was operated by Mr. Louis Rausch and was located on Old Ballas Road, one-half mile south of Olive Boulevard. Mr. Rausch settled in Creve Coeur in 1904 from St. Louis where he had operated a tailor shop and raised carrier pigeons. His "ideal strain" of Barred Plymouth Rock Chickens were distributed throughout the United States. In conjunction with his poultry business, Mr. Rausch kept many bee hives, and was the purveyor of quality honey to many prominent St. Louis families. He also raised English Carrier Pigeons and, to a small extent, tailored men's clothing, a trade which he learned in his native Germany.

Several dairy farms have operated in the area from time to time. The first was owned and operated by Jacob Studt Sr. before and after the turn of the century. This farm was

located south of Olive, between what is now Old Ballas and New Ballas Roads.

The Schwendler Dairy operated during the 1930's and was the first to provide home delivery of their products. Their herd consisted of Jersey cows, and the milk supplied to the customers was noted for being rich in cream.

Trupka's Dairy came to Creve Coeur in 1920 and continued operations until the early 1960's, at which time the property was sold for residential development. This dairy farm was by far the largest dairy farm in the area, but still found competition difficult with the larger city based dairies.

The Trupka Dairy was located in Brentwood prior to 1920, and when they were ready to move, the dairy herd was driven out Brentwood Blvd., Clayton Road, Lindbergh, and Ladue Road. The herd and the operation was settled at a location on the southwest corner of Ladue and Mosley Roads.

In the year 1966, when land zoned commercial is selling for more than two dollars per square foot, it is difficult to imagine just what the peak price will eventually be. People who were born and raised in this area can remember when good farm land sold for one hundred dollars per acre, or, if it were exceptionally productive, perhaps two hundred dollars. These prices did not change appreciably until after World War II.

Today, land once used for farming is being sold for subdivisions at prices ranging from five-thousand to six-thousand dollars per acre. Land being used for apartment developments is selling for more than ten thousand dollars per acre. It is interesting to compare these prices with the ten to fourteen dollars per acre which property in the area brought before the Civil War.

COMMISSION MERCHANTS

For the newcomer to the Creve Coeur area, it is perhaps difficult to visualize the existence and function of the commission merchant. During the months between the early spring harvest and sometime after Thanksgiving, these men would haul fruit and vegetables from local farms to the Third Street Market in St. Louis, and sell the produce on a commission basis.

In the first half of the Twentieth Century, the cultivation of strawberries, raspberries, asparagus, tomatoes, potatoes, plus a variety of other fruits and vegetables on truck farms, was a way of life for many families. The commission merchants satisfied a real need of these families by providing

transportation from the local community to a place where the produce could be sold. In the beginning, horse-drawn wagons were used, to be replaced later by motor driven trucks and rail service.

Much of the commission house business was centered on Olive just west of Old Ballas. Mr. Henry Kauffmann and Mr. Tom Snyder were the first to successfully engage themselves as commission merchants, with Mr. Charles Elgasser purchasing the business from Mr. Snyder. After World War I, Mr. John Sandoz established a commission house in the same general area followed by Jules Faron and Charles Jahn. The year 1964 saw the last of these once vital commission houses close as a result of declining business.

BLACKSMITHS AND WAGON MAKERS

No rural community was complete without a blacksmith shop. The smith would keep the horses shod, the plows sharpened, the implements repaired, and would very often build wagons and sleds for neighboring farmers.

The blacksmith, along with the general merchant, could always be found close together on the main street, and Creve Coeur was no exception. The earliest blacksmith was located on Olive, just west of Old Ballas, when Otto Scheidt provided this service. Mr. Scheidt sold to August Krueger who in turn sold to Charles Elgasser, Sr. Mr. Elgasser's son, Charles, followed his father and operated a vehicle business, selling buggies, surreys, and farm wagons.

The age of mechanized farming followed World War I and with this innovation, many blacksmiths adapted to the changing times by going into the implement business. During this period of transition, Mr. George Seeger established an implement store at a location about two miles west of Creve Coeur. The function of the smith ceased to be in demand, and when they were no longer needed, they closed their shops or went into another business. In Creve Coeur and westward on Olive, all the shops were closed in the early 1950's, the last one to do so being the one in Fern Ridge, which closed in 1955.

GENERAL MERCHANTS TO SUPER MARKETS

Many of the present-day super markets in the St. Louis area had their beginnings as small-town general merchant exchanges. The general merchant operated a kind of business which provided the early rural settlers with almost every need other than those satisfied on the farm. Kerosene for cooking

and light; flour, sugar, and other staples, seasonings, boots and shoes, cloth and clothing, and hardware items were among the wares of the pioneer shopkeeper.



Dierberg's first store, which grew into two large supermarkets in the 1960's.

Dierberg's supermarket, which is the oldest continuing business, is one such contemporary operation which had its beginning in the year 1851. After several unsuccessful attempts, Jacob Studt established a store in 1854 and sold the business in 1880 to H.M. Koch. In 1914, Mr. William Dierberg became the partner of Mr. Koch in the business which, in addition to the general field of mercantile sales, dealt in the fields of room and board, and a place to stable horses. Mr. Koch retired in 1918, selling his remaining interest in the store to Mr. Dierberg. The location, known as the 14-mile House, also provided butchering facilities and a place for the discussion of politics.

The business was assumed by Mr. Dierberg's three sons in 1929. In 1960, the second century of the business, a new and more modern supermarket was erected on the northwest corner of Olive and Craig Roads. The Dierberg enterprise has now expanded to an additional store constructed at the intersection of Olive and Highway 141.

Mr. Charles Meier was a traveling dry goods merchant before and after the turn of the century. He sold goods from his wagon on a house to house basis, driving his wagon west on Olive to the river, then back to the city for re-supply by way of Manchester Road. When Mr. Stephen Raab and a partner lost a store building to fire, Mr. Meier acquired the site and began his mercantile activities in 1902.

Meier and his children, who followed him in the business, conducted this successful venture until 1938 when it was sold to Mr. Joseph Bosch. Upon the death of Mr. Bosch, Joseph Faron purchased the store and the Faron family continued in

business at the same location until the land was sold to the highway department in 1963.

The growth of the population in the Creve Coeur community has attracted the attention of the large chain grocery stores.

BARBERS

At this writing, a man's hair is cut by a barber for two and one-half dollars. A man, if he is so inclined, can have his hair styled at a cost of six dollars, or he can even have his hair color changed to cover the grey strands. Barber tools are advertised in the daily papers, and enterprising parents, somewhat out of necessity, are becoming proficient barbers, particularly if there are several boys in the family.

Barber shops are plentiful now in the Creve Coeur community, with multi-chair businesses being present in most of the new shopping centers. Some sixty years ago, however, the first barber came to Creve Coeur, and settled near the intersection of Olive and Highway 244. He was followed a few years later by Charles Mills, who advertised a haircut and a shave for thirty-five cents. The early residents of the community remember Mr. Mills for his slogan, "A free haircut tomorrow". In the years around 1900, barbers located their chairs in pool halls and saloons, and often conducted other businesses on the side.

THE LUMBER YARD

A coal and building material yard was started in 1890 by Mr. John Hezel, Sr. and his sons. The yard was on the eastern corner of his farm, which was located on Olive and Mason Road, known now as the location of Faith Hospital. The Missouri Pacific Railroad cut off this section of the farm and was an important factor in bringing supplies to the business. At one time in the early 1900's, a post office was located in the lumber yard office, and was administered by the yard's proprietor.

The management of the lumber yard went from the Hezels to a Mr. Reifs Schneider, then to a Mr. Darlington, and finally to Mr. Ben Wenneemann. Mr. Wenneemann has operated the Forest Park Lumber Company on the site for the past forty-seven years, and his two sons in 1967 moved and operate it as a division of Essen Hardware.

HARDWARE STORES

The first hardware store in Creve Coeur was opened by A. S. Baumann in 1896. This was an outgrowth of his earlier business of wagon making which he started in 1884. The hardware and undertaking business flourished, and in 1925 he sold his hardware interests to Mr. Fred Essen. Mr. Essen purchased additional land, and constructed a new, larger store in 1936. The operation was sold to the Creve Coeur Supply Company, which retained the name of Essen Hardware, and in 1952 Mr. Essen retired. Ten years later, the site of the Mt. Zion Methodist Church was purchased by the firm and a modern and complete hardware store was erected.

Mr. E. G. Graeser began his hardware business shortly after the turn of the century and continued until 1949, at which time he retired. In the beginning, Mr. Graeser manufactured woven wire fencing, and his sons, who were brought up in the hardware business, branched out into related fields. Oliver went into the heating and sheet metal business and, after his death, Charles Graeser continued the venture. Ernest Graeser, Jr. went into the steam fitting business. At the present time, none of these operations exist. The original Graeser store was on Olive at the intersection with Graeser Road.

AUTOMOBILES AND FARM MACHINERY

The first automobile in Creve Coeur was sported by A. S. Baumann in 1908. Mr. Baumann opened the first gasoline station at the rear of his hardware store. Ranke brothers opened the first automobile repair shop sometime before World War I. In the late 1920's, the first authorized automobile dealership was owned by Irvin Bagby handling Chrysler cars, and was followed by Reuther's Kaiser Jeep Agency in 1952. In 1960, they acquired the Studebaker franchise for the area. In 1965, Weber Chevrolet obtained a tract east of Highway 244 with the intent of opening a Chevrolet agency on the site.

Mr. A. S. Baumann was the first wagon maker in the area, a business that he traded to Charles Elgasser for an implement operation. This implement store was turned back to Mr. Elgasser when Baumann entered the hardware business.

DRUG STORES

Patent medicines were sold in the early general stores to ease and comfort the ailments of men and horses. A prescription was seldom if ever used, and medication was given by

the doctors directly to the patients as they made their house-to-house calls.

In 1921, Leroy Lammers opened the first apothecary in the community in the space formerly occupied as the first site of the Creve Coeur Farmer's Bank. The Lammers' Drug Store struggled for several years and eventually went out of business. In 1928, a Mr. Blankenbaker opened a drug store on the north side of Olive just west of Old Ballas. He retained the store until his death in 1943, at which time Louis Jackson assumed management of the firm. In early 1944, Miss Dorothy Fitch purchased the business and currently operates the Creve Coeur Prescription and Drug Store at 11655 Olive.

In 1955, Mr. Heisterberg opened a drug store on Olive and Mr. Rex Curry did likewise in 1958. The Curry business was moved in 1962 to the Creve Coeur Plaza Shopping center.

Competition in the pharmacy business was made more keen in the fall of 1963 when the Krummenacher Drug Store opened at 11020 Olive. At the time this history is being compiled and written, the concepts of treatment professed by modern medical doctors enables most of the drug stores to prosper and thrive.

BANKING

A decade ago, not even the most optimistic investor visualized the financial future of the Creve Coeur community. As the population grows, business grows, and financial manipulation and maneuvering become increasingly important. A bank or some such central financial agency must be nearby so businesses, investors, and depositors can avail themselves of its services.

Creve Coeur Farmer's Bank was chartered in 1906 with capital assets of \$10,000, and with Dr. John Pfister as the president. Dr. Pfister served in this capacity until his death in 1912. William Dierberg became the president and retained this position until his death in 1945.

During his administration, a more modern bank building was erected in 1920 at Old Ballas and Olive. During the depression years of the early 1930's, when many banks were forced to close, Creve Coeur Farmer's Bank met its obligations and remained in business, largely because of the trust which the citizens of the town had in the bank's officers.

In 1954, while William F. Dierberg was president, new banking quarters were constructed across Olive, and these quarters were further enlarged in 1961. Fifteen acres were purchased in 1965 on Olive, 500 feet east of Interstate 244

for an enlarged banking facility, completed in 1967. This structure is one of the most modern buildings in the midwest and is being recognized nationally for its beauty and functionalism.

September, 1967, found the bank's assets at more than twenty-five million dollars, which can be compared with resources totaling three hundred and two thousand dollars in 1920. James F. Dierberg, a graduate of Washington University's School of Law, became the bank's president in January of 1966. In 1954, the word, "Farmers" was officially dropped from the title and, it was the Creve Coeur Bank. In September 1967 the bank's name became "Creve Coeur Bank and Trust Company" which recognized the increasing importance of the bank trust business. The bank's growth and success can be attributed not only to the high standards maintained in all business dealings, but also to the competent and faithful services of such employees as J.W. MacKay and John F. Roeder, who have served as cashiers for many years.

INDUSTRY AND MANUFACTURING

Creve Coeur developed directly from a rural farming community to a suburban residential area with no particular emphasis upon industry. Those who have been employed by and have engaged in industrial activities have for the most part, done so outside the immediate community. There are, however, some industrial endeavors which merit being mentioned in the area's history.

In 1906, a Mr. Gleditzsch began manufacturing the famous open head cigar. His plant was located on what is now the southeast corner of New Ballas and Olive. His business continued until 1915 when he sold the property to Mr. John Sandoz.

Mr. Jacob Studt manufactured brick at a location on Emerson Road, about three-fourths mile south of Olive.

The Hydraulic Press Brick Company purchased a large tract of land in the early 1900's at Ladue and Ballas Roads. Top soil was stripped off so that shale could be mined. The shale was loaded onto freight cars, and transported to the St. Louis Plant of the company, where it was used in the preparation of brick. During the peak years, as many as fifty men were employed in the mining process, most of them from the Creve Coeur area, but some were itinerant Italian immigrants. After 1940, the shale pit was closed and the workers gravitated to other occupations.

The Jacob Hilbert family operated a grain mill which served the early Creve Coeur farmers. The mill was located at the intersection of Emerson and Olive, and continued to function until a few years after the turn of the century.

The most significant industrial endeavor is that which is currently taking place at the eastern end of the community. This is the Monsanto complex located just east and west of Lindbergh and south of Olive. The operations are situated upon a 300 acre tract, which Monsanto began acquiring toward the end of 1951. At this writing the complex includes some seventeen buildings at a site which comprises the company's world headquarters, and, also, houses a large part of the firm's research activities.

Monsanto moved its headquarters to this location in 1957, at which time 1,700 people were employed on the site. By the end of 1967, this figure reached 4,300, and there will be over 1,000,000 square feet of enclosed space on the grounds.

THE RECENT YEARS

In the 1950's, Creve Coeur continued to grow, develop, and prosper. Few, if any, observers would have speculated that progress could occur any faster than it did during this decade. However, the first years of the 1960's have witnessed an even more astounding growth pattern. Super markets, shopping centers, medical buildings, drug stores, hardware stores, service stations, equipment dealers, and a variety of other businesses give to Olive Boulevard the appearance of being suburbia's main street.

In the fall of 1961, the Creve Coeur Plaza came into being on the corner of Olive and New Ballas. Keller's Shopping area opened in 1962 at the corner of Olive and Emerson. The Graeser Olive Shopping Center opened in 1964 at the corner of Graeser and Olive, and the Mosley Shopping Center opened at the corner of Olive and Mosley Road in 1966. Old established businesses are moving to the centralized shopping plazas and new enterprising merchants are beginning operations in this community of economic fertility. The only limits upon the future business development of this area seem to be the imagination and courage of the investors.

Utilities and Services

*"Civilization is simply a series
of victories over nature."*

William Harry

INTRODUCTION

The nature of human beings is such that as soon as they have developed methods of satisfying the more basic and fundamental needs, they will begin to seek out ways to bring to themselves desired conveniences in the most efficient and economical manner. Running water, electricity, natural gas, telephones, sewers, paved roads, door to door mail delivery, police service, and fire protection are not the result of chance happenings. Although these are an integral part of the lives of the contemporary Creve Coeur citizen, many years of planned effort, growth, and development were required to bring about the existing quality of these and other utilities and services.

POSTAL SERVICE

One of the first conveniences desired by most early settlers regardless of where they were, was to have a regular and dependable channel of communication with the friends and family they left behind. Early in America's history, it was recognized and established that the sole and final authority for providing this important service would rest with the federal government. The ultimate function of delivering a letter mailed from one person to another was, throughout the history of the postal service, carried out in numerous ways. Although the government had the final responsibility, they would delegate certain tasks to private carriers. Horses, stage coaches, men on foot, trains, trucks, boats, busses, automobiles, and airplanes have all had a role somewhere along the path of mail service development.

Centralization and consolidation of the postal services is possible only when rapid and dependable transportation is available. The development of the Creve Coeur Post Office follows a chronological pattern similar to that of transportation and roads. As roads were improved and faster and more reliable transportation methods came into being, the small outlying post offices became unnecessary. One larger post office could serve the same area formerly serviced by several smaller ones because mail could be distributed more rapidly and it was easier for people to have access to the post office.

On July 31, 1959, the Creve Coeur Post Office officially became the Creve Coeur Branch of the St. Louis Post Office. This was a centralizing move that culminated over one-hundred years of absorbing the smaller, surrounding, and outlying post offices. The original Creve Coeur Post Office was established on April 16, 1851, with Washington Ross as the postmaster, the first of more than a score to follow in this position. Mr. Ross, like the other postmasters of his day, was paid a commission on the volume of business which he did, rather than a salary.

The years of mail delivery to what is now the area served by the Creve Coeur and Chesterfield Post Offices witnessed the opening and closing of a number of small, local post offices. At one time or another, a station name of Bellemonte, Bonhomme, Castello, Central, Church, Clemens, Fern Ridge, Gumbo, Hog Hollow, Lake, Monarch, Spurville, Stratmann, or Studt was an essential part of the addresses of some early residents.

When the Creve Coeur, Bellemonte, Central, Olivette and Bonhomme stations opened in 1851, the rates for sending a letter were five cents for delivery within a 300 mile radius and ten cents for anything beyond that distance. The first Creve Coeur Post Office was in a general store operated by Jacob Studt and later by Henry M. Koch. It remained in this location for fifty-four years.

In 1904, two rural free delivery routes were established which carried mail south to Conway Road, east to Denny Road, north to Creve Coeur Lake, and west to Creve Coeur Creek. Mr. A. S. Baumann, who became postmaster in 1905, was relieved of his duties in 1917, reportedly for uttering pro-German remarks.

For a time, a lower rate post office operated out of a general store owned by William Dierberg. R.H. Stevens served as postmaster. The operation was transferred in 1924, when R.F.D. was restored, to a building owned by Mr. Baumann and his son, Gustave, served as postmaster until 1932.

Once again the operation was moved to the Dierberg building. This frequent physical relocation of the post office and the procession of administrators can probably be closely tied to changes of the parties in political power.

When in 1959 it became a branch of the St. Louis Post Office, the headquarters were moved to the north side of Olive Boulevard. At this time, city delivery replaced the rural routes and mail trucks rather than private individuals under contract, began to haul the mail from St. Louis. On December 2, 1966, a new post office building was occupied and is located

a short distance south of Olive on the west side of New Ballas. At this writing, there are twenty-two city routes and one rural route emanating from this office.

TRANSPORTATION

Travelers or settlers moving west to Creve Coeur from St. Louis have come by foot, horseback, wagons of various sorts, stage coaches, trains, busses, automobiles, and service cars. Until 1888, when regular rail connections were established, the only means of public travel between St. Louis and Creve Coeur was stage coach. Information about this stage coach is obscure, but it has been determined that the stage stopped in Creve Coeur at the Lake House located on the north side of Olive, several hundred feet east of Highway 244 alongside what is now the Creve Coeur Bank building. The stage was known to have carried the mail for a time in addition to providing passenger service. It is reported that the coach made one trip east and one west each day. Its operators included a Mr. Hartung and later, Willie Litzinger.

The first passenger train service to the area occurred on the Fourth of July, 1881, when 18,000 fares were sold to people visiting Creve Coeur Lake, then in its infancy as a tourist attraction. It was not until seven years later, however, that regular morning and evening passenger service was established. Wallace Ewen, native Creve Coeurian, was appointed the first passenger locomotive engineer and continued until 1910. The local stations included Wilkinson (Malcolm), Ballas, Emerson, Chapman, and Colman. In addition to passengers, mail was carried and delivered to Emerson Station and later to Ballas.

Bus service to the area was started in 1916, and gradually replaced the trains as the primary mode of public transportation. More frequent runs and more convenient routes enabled the busses to drive the trains out of operation in 1928, after the railroad tried a brief, but unsuccessful, experiment with diesel powered cars.

While it was in existence, the railroad provided the area with some much needed freight service. One of the more significant customers of the Missouri Pacific was the Hydraulic Press Brick Company, which utilized trains to haul shale and clay to the city for processing. Farmers used rail transportation to send their produce to the city and to have seed and fertilizer delivered. The businessmen had supplies such as flour, feed, coal, farm machinery and building materials shipped in by rail.

Early bus operators included Joe Bardot, George Smith,

a Mr. Oehler, Roland Puellmann, Fred Lowe, and later Mr. Lowe's sons, who sold the business to the St. Louis County Transit Company in 1944. The current operators, the Bi-State Transit Authority, absorbed the lines in Creve Coeur along with most other bus companies in metropolitan St. Louis in the early 1960's.



Service on the "Tiger Face" streetcar, so named because of the manner in which it was painted, was discontinued in 1950.

The first vehicles to serve as busses were very dissimilar to the contemporary air-conditioned, padded coaches. Solid rubber tires, and bodies built by wagon makers, with little regard for passenger comfort, were the lot of the early bus travelers. In 1920, pneumatic tires made bus riding more bearable and, thereafter, each year brought improved conditions on the busses.

As bus travelers became more numerous, it was necessary to create more frequent runs. The late 1920's witnessed busses running to and from the city each half-hour at peak times, and hourly during the balance of the day. The usual fare from Creve Coeur to the city limits at the University City Car Loop, was twenty-five cents. Limited daily bus service was extended westward to Gumbo, with the fare to that community being sixty cents.

Since the early Creve Coeur community had no high school, the busses played a vital role in transporting youngsters to school each day, and these same busses made attendance at Washington University and other city schools a possibility for local residents. It was also possible for men and women to acquire jobs in the city and to have reliable and economical transportation to and from these jobs. The busses carried mail under contract for nearly twenty years beginning in 1918.

For about a year, service cars challenged the busses, but discontinued when it was found to be an unprofitable venture.

The post World War II years saw a rapid increase in private automobile ownership, and people began driving to work instead of taking the bus. The business of the busses dwindled and service was curtailed until now there is across St. Louis County only a skeleton of the routes covered by busses in former years.

A franchise was granted to H. P. Wells in 1910 to operate a street car on Olive under the control of the Creve Coeur and Western Railway. The inability of this firm to raise capital, however, made it impossible for this enterprise ever to materialize.

The Midland Creve Coeur Lake Line began operations to and from the Creve Coeur Lake amusement area in 1900, and the last run was made in 1950. Since the story of this line is so tightly interwoven with that of the Lake, a more detailed account of its operation was presented earlier in this history.

UTILITIES

It was in the early 1900's that the first major public utility came to Creve Coeur residents. The need for cisterns and wells was minimized when in 1904, water was piped along Olive Street Road. This meant running water in the nearby homes, hot water, bath tubs, and indoor plumbing.

The houses along Olive were quick to take advantage of this new luxury, but another twenty years passed before most lateral lines were installed to serve those living to the north and south of Olive. Before the outbreak of the Second World War, most homes in the Creve Coeur community were enjoying pure, safe, and palatable water drawn through a meter.

As late as 1920, lamp chimneys were purchased by retailers in gross lots to be sold to the kerosene using residents of Creve Coeur. This occurred in spite of the fact that electricity was brought to the area as early as 1904. Electricity did, however, radiate out from the main thoroughfare more quickly than did water, and soon after World War I about 90% of the surrounding residents had electricity wired to their homes.

In the beginning, electricity was thought to be primarily for illumination, but soon it became the power behind cooling fans first in public buildings, then in private homes. One of the first appliances to be used to any appreciable extent in

the Creve Coeur area was the electric iron, a boon to weary housewives.

While water and electricity came from sources outside the immediate community, the telephone developed as more of a home town project. In 1906, some civic minded (and probably profit minded), citizens organized the Creve Coeur Mutual Telephone Company. The original instruments could not be compared with contemporary phones, but they did serve their purpose. Before the introduction of the telephone to the community, the mail and the mouth were the primary means of communication.

All early telephones were mounted on the wall and dry cell batteries were the power source used to ring the phone. All lines were party lines making for a very low level of security on any information uttered over the wires. The switchboard for Creve Coeur was located in a room behind what is known as the Old Dierberg's Store. To make a call, it was necessary to ring the operator, who in turn would secure the connection. The board had a line to St. Louis but, of course, that was a long distance call.

In order to enjoy the convenience of a telephone, the prospective subscriber was required to purchase a share in the Creve Coeur Mutual Telephone Company for twenty-five dollars. In the early 1930's, the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company became interested in purchasing the local operation. The stockholders were paid six hundred dollars for each share they held in the old mutual company. In 1932, Creve Coeur became the second dial phone system in St. Louis County at a time when there were less than five hundred users in the area.

Gas utilities did not arrive upon the Creve Coeur scene until the late 1950's.

FIRE PROTECTION

As the community grew it became evident that certain precautions must be taken to protect lives and property from the ever-present dangers of fire. In 1943, with encouragement and direction from the Office of Civilian Defense, seven community minded citizens took a course in fire fighting. A captain from the Ladue Fire Department gave the instruction at the Bellefontaine Fire House in Chesterfield.

In the spring of 1944, the Creve Coeur Volunteer Fire Association was formed. They acquired a 1933 Chevrolet truck with a government issued Willys pump and one thousand feet of hose. Volunteers were solicited and signed up in front

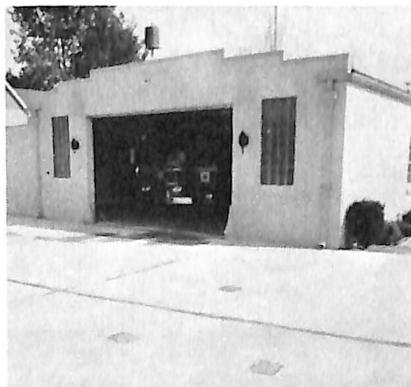
of Dierberg's Store. William F. Dierberg served as the first appointed Chief. The first fire house was in the basement of Dierberg's, and the first elected fire chief was Charles DeVault. To assemble the squad in case of fire, the truck was driven onto the street with the siren blasting full force.

Various fund raising projects, such as fish fries, and carnivals were held to raise operating capital, and each Sunday morning would find the volunteers at the fire house for in-service training or out on the truck checking equipment.

The volunteers continued to add equipment and, in 1948, began selling tags at the rate of five dollars for each residence and ten dollars for businesses. The volunteers did as fine a job as a part time group could be expected to do, but the growing community needed a full time, completely equipped, and fully manned fire department. On December 16, 1958, the people voted for the incorporation of the Creve Coeur Fire Protection District, and elected Julius Morrell, George Plack, and Earl Shappell as the directors. The volunteers turned over eighteen thousand dollars to the new district to cover operational expenses until taxes could be collected.

At this writing, the force employed by the district consists of twenty-three men with the stations being manned twenty-four hours each day. An additional fire house was opened in 1963 on Schuetz Road, west of Lindbergh. The overall effectiveness of the fire department is punctuated by the fact that the fire insurance rates are a class 6, the lowest available in St. Louis County.

CREVE COEUR FIRE DEPARTMENT ENGINE HOUSES



Olive Street Road



Schuetz Road

THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

On August 11, 1952, the Creve Coeur Board of Aldermen passed an ordinance which established a police department. Until this time, the policing functions were being carried out by Marshal Arthur Thieman and four deputy marshals. In the same month, the first full time police officer was hired by Creve Coeur. He worked with the marshal and his deputies patrolling the city in the first radio equipped squad car. All calls were at that time, dispatched through the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office.

On March of 1953, the deputy marshals were replaced by full time police officers. The department continued to acquire equipment and personnel, and by 1961, six men were employed on a full-time basis to police the entire city. Since 1961, eight more men have been hired. The present complement consists of a chief, a captain, two lieutenants, three sergeants, and nine patrolmen. Three cars are now in service, and the force is headquartered in a modern station with a secure jail, and an independent dispatching system.

CITY GOVERNMENT

In December of 1949, Creve Coeur incorporated as a class four city. This was partially a mechanism to prevent annexation by some neighboring communities. No longer was the name to be assigned merely to a vague, unidentified area straddling Olive Boulevard. Definite boundaries, procedures, and organization were created to efficiently operate the government of a rapidly growing suburban community.

On December 30, 1949, the new Board of Aldermen met with Mayor W. M. Seymour in the meeting room of the Creve Coeur Farmers' Hall. At this initial gathering, appointments were made and procedures and policies were established. The Council decided to meet in the Farmers' Hall until a permanent place could be obtained. At that time the incorporated city had about 2,000 residents.

The first aldermen were Messrs. Schultes, Berglar, Stevens, and Farris. C. E. Brown was the collector and Mr. Schultes was appointed the acting city clerk and served until March 1950 when A. A. Harrington was appointed to that position.

Positions have been created to implement the desired services. Ordinances have been passed to establish an orderly society and economy. Zoning has taken place to keep business, industry, and residences from interfering with each other.



First owned Creve Coeur City Hall, built in 1963. Previous city government offices were in rented buildings.

The dedicated office holders, serving the young city have, in the past, and are presently contributing the guidance and direction that any healthy youngster needs.

At this writing, the city of Creve Coeur has an approximate population of 8,000 people. The city has on the payroll some twenty-one full-time employees, and has an annual budget of \$350,000.



Early Educational Facility

Picture of the Lake school which was given to the City of Creve Coeur in 1967 because of its historical importance.

Diversions

*"Straining breaks the bow, and
relaxation relieves the mind."*
Publius Syrus

INTRODUCTION

We have discussed the physical environment of the citizens of Creve Coeur, we have described the way they pass their culture on to their children, we have written of the ways they put bread on their tables, and we have commented on the way they have made their lives easier through the development of utilities and services. This section is devoted to the activities which these people have pursued in an effort to divert their minds from the more serious aspects of living.

WORK AND PLAY

In the beginning, there was little time for fun on the frontier. The business of survival was a demanding job and there was neither time nor energy left at the end of a day for sport and games. Transportation was a factor too, so if recreation was to be had, it was necessarily limited to the family group or very close neighbors.

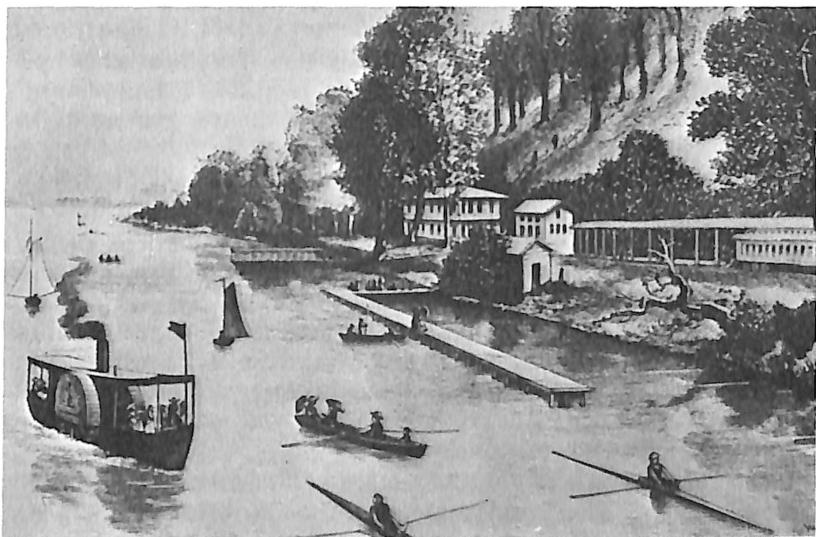
The first social activities were probably tied very closely to certain major tasks which needed attention around the farm. A kind of work-play system came into being which characterized the American rural frontier. Corn huskings usually ended in a party which included live music, dancing, hard cider, and large quantities of food.

Quilting parties among women friends and relatives provided an opportunity to renew acquaintances and catch up on the neighborhood news and, at the same time, make a very useful and necessary product. Families and friends would join together for apple peeling parties and for community preparation of apple butter. Joint butcherings, harvestings, threshings, and barn or house raising enabled the early residents to socialize while accomplishing vital work.

The nature of life in the early days made the cooperative spirit and interdependence among families necessary. The work parties were enthusiastically anticipated and executed, because they provided an opportunity to visit and to share good fortunes and problems.

Card games were popular with families and friends along with a variety of other parlor games. As families became

more numerous, interfamily visiting, games, parties, and dances became common occurrences. As a population increases and matures it seems that recreation becomes more structured and organized. Television, professional athletes and entertainers have taken the place of intra and inter-family visiting.



An artist's sketch of the Big Lake Park — this was one of first places visited by people from St. Louis using the train for transportation in the 1800's.

TRAP SHOOTING

The first white man in the Creve Coeur area arrived before 1700 and, for almost two centuries, enjoyed a hunter's paradise since this part of the country abounded in wildlife. As hunting was as much a necessity as a sport, proficiency with firearms was as important to some as proficiency with a plow. Early settlers prided themselves upon being good marksmen and would eagerly perform for their peers.

Because of the interest and importance attached to shooting, matches and contests developed for competition and prizes. Targets and clay birds were fired upon with the better shooters winning portions of beef, pork, turkeys, geese, or ducks.

Private clubs were formed by groups and members would begin to practice in the early fall to sharpen their eye before hunting season opened. For almost twenty-five years, beginning in 1930, Dan Zimmer operated a public trap and skeet shooting club on the St. Louis County Fairgrounds. At least three state trap and skeet shooting meets were held there,

and Mr. Zimmer was at one time the Missouri State Doubles and Handicap Champion. During the twenty-five years of its existence, the club's activity was interrupted only once, and that during World War II when ammunition was not available.

CREVE COEUR FARMERS' CLUB

What is now called the Creve Coeur Country Club furnished the area for years with limited indoor facilities for entertainment and sports events in addition to a picnic ground. The building was originally called the Creve Coeur Farmers' Hall and its function was that it be used for community gatherings which included dancing and picnics.

There were two bowling alleys in the basement of the building and they were used for "cocked hat" bowling, a game in which three pins instead of the customary ten were used. Cocked hat was scored in the same manner as modern bowling, except that a perfect score was ninety compared with three hundred in ten pin bowling. The two alleys provided amusement and entertainment for men of the community on many winter evenings and weekends.

In 1936, ten-pin racks were installed and bowling leagues were organized. In 1940, two more lanes were added making a total of four. Automatic pin setters were installed and these alleys served the community until 1963. At this time, the newer and larger lanes began attracting the bowling trade and those in the Farmers' Hall were closed.

In the sixty years of existence, a perfect game was never rolled. Tom Snyder had the high game in cocked hat with an eighty-one while Erwin Lindner bowled a two hundred ninety-eight game in ten-pin competition. The high three game series was 707 and was bowled by Kenneth Stegmann. The woman's high single was 257, bowled by Mabel Luedloff, who also holds the high series record with a score of 633.

The Olive Theatre, using the facilities of the Creve Coeur Hall, provided the area's first movie house in the early 1920's. The program usually consisted of a Western starring Tom Mix or William Farnum, followed by a Charlie Chaplin comic strip. Those participating in this enterprise included Julius Moeller, J. W. MacKay, Mrs. Hattie Doyle, Frank Jadelet, Henry Wuest, and Morrison Lyons, some of whom provided music during the performances. The Olive Theatre did not prove to be a profitable venture and, consequently, closed after a few years.

Those who planned the new Creve Coeur Hall, built in

1949, made possible the use of the building for basketball. In 1951, equipment was installed, and church teams were organized into a league. The league consisted of teams from St. Paul Lutheran, Immanuel Lutheran, St. Thomas E. & R., St. Paul E. & R., St. Monica's Catholic, St. Joseph's Catholic, and Central Baptist of Eureka. William Schneider, a retired business man, took a very active part in this program for young people. He, along with helpers from the various churches, managed to keep the league in operation for six years.

When Mr. Schneider moved to Florida, the basketball program ceased to function, and the league was abandoned. The hall was remodeled by the Creve Coeur Country Club in 1959, and the ceilings were lowered, thus eliminating basketball as an activity in the building.

CREVE COEUR GOLF CLUB

The royal and ancient game of golf is generally thought to have originated in Scotland, but some historians feel that it may have been first played by the Dutch. Regardless of its true beginning place, the English became interested in the game in the second half of the nineteenth century. It was about this same time that the rest of the English speaking world began favoring the sport. In the beginning, the game was considered to be a pastime for kings and aristocrats until public links were established in the first quarter of the twentieth century.

In 1914, the first public course was opened in St. Louis. Prior to that time, only members of private clubs enjoyed the opportunity to play golf. John J. Hartnett opened the first pay-as-you-play course in this part of the country.

The course was started in 1924 on a 110 acre plot of land purchased from Judge Herman H. Hackmann. The site was selected for its rolling hills and natural hazards provided by a meandering creek. The location was convenient to the thickly settled parts of St. Louis County, and Olive Boulevard provided a rapid and dependable route from the city.

Harry B. Smead, the proprietor of a Chicago seed and implement store, laid out the course, and spent years developing similar courses in all sections of the country. Creve Coeur Golf Club introduced Washington Bent Grass for surfacing the putting greens, and when the club opened on July 4, 1925, the fees were one dollar for eighteen holes on weekdays, and two dollars on weekends and holidays. Later, for the same fee, an enthusiast could play from dawn to dusk.

TENNIS

Tennis, like golf, has not always been readily available to all people. This game did not receive much attention until Ladue and Parkway High Schools included tennis as a part of the regular extra-class activities program. Prior to that time, a few private courts provided the entire tennis offerings for the community.

The Ward Parker family moved to the Creve Coeur area in 1955, and have done much to promote the sport of tennis. The Parkers have made the game a family affair and, together, have won about five hundred trophies of various magnitude, in the United States and abroad. A son, Jim, won honors in the area while attending Ladue High School, and continued his fine performance at Rice University while there on a tennis scholarship. A younger son, Larry, is following in his brother's footsteps. Harry Burris, a Parkway graduate, continued his tennis success while he studied at Washington University in St. Louis.

THE CREVE COEUR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Prior to 1940, baseball diamonds were provided by individuals or teams renting land from property owners for nominal fees. Early in 1939, a group of sports minded citizens formed an athletic club which obtained permission from the Creve Coeur Hall Association to grade property to the rear of the Hall for use as a baseball field. A carnival was sponsored by the athletic club and the proceeds were used to defray the cost of building the diamond. This was the first step toward establishing a community playground.

The years which followed saw the raising of additional funds and the continual improvement of the facilities. Grandstands were erected along with a refreshment stand. Lights were donated by the Creve Coeur Lions Club in 1952, to be improved eight years later by the Khoury League.

As funds were available, other facilities and improvements were added, including lighted horseshoe courts, badminton courts, and corkball courts. When the Khoury League began using the facilities in 1952, less than 100 boys were participating. The year 1966 witnessed over 1,000 boys playing baseball under this same program. In 1968, the Khoury League will use facilities at its new location on River Valley Drive.

BASEBALL

The first organized baseball team in this vicinity seems to be the Spurville team in 1904 located on what is now Page

Blvd., although some form of the game has existed from the time eighteen men were available to divide themselves into two teams and compete for a two and one-half dollar half-barrel of beer. Games, names, dates and details concerning baseball in the Creve Coeur community would fill volumes, and still not completely cover this colorful pastime.

Some of the local athletes who have achieved major league berths include Walter Mueller who played for five years with Pittsburgh, his son, Donald, who played for about a decade for the New York Giants, and Bill Beckmann, a pitcher first with the Cardinals. In 1946, Fred Dierberg and Steve Raab entered a boys baseball team into the St. Louis County Western League, to enjoy much success in the subsequent competition.

From 1908 to 1927, Creve Coeur area teams enjoyed spectacular success with many championship teams.

The American Legion Junior Baseball team sponsored by Creve Coeur Memorial Post No. 397, played from 1951 until 1961. The team had a combined record of 111 victories against 51 losses. While in existence, the team drew boys from Chaminade, Clayton, Eureka, Burroughs, Ladue, University City, Maryland Heights, and Pattonville High Schools in addition to Western Military Academy and Missouri Military Academy.



Boys in Creve Coeur area who played in the Western County Junior League who won three championships and lost the fourth in the best of three game playoff.

Few activities can claim as much participant and spectator interest as baseball. Creve Coeur has certainly had more than a fair share of success with the game. The local residents have also witnessed great changes, particularly in the physical facilities available for playing the game. The present teams of seven year olds playing under the lights in matched uniforms are a far cry from the Sunday afternoons in a pasture some fifty years ago.

SOFTBALL

A softball league was organized in 1952 and was called the Church Softball League. Elmer Eschenbrenner was named president and held this office for nine years. At the time the league was organized, the lights were being donated by the Lions Club, and these lights were dedicated with a game on June 1, 1952, between the Creve Coeur Lions and a team from St. Paul E. & R. Church.

The league consisted of four men's teams and four ladies' teams. Each team was sponsored by a church in the community. The churches sponsoring teams were St. Johns Church, St. Paul Lutheran, Parkway Baptist, St. Monica's Catholic, St. Pauls E. & R, and Zion Evangelical.

CORKBALL

Corkball has been and will be played for many years on lots, fields, streets, or wherever enough room is available. The game needs only four players and a short, narrow playing area. Despite the meager requirements, a league did exist in Creve Coeur for about three seasons, from 1960 to 1963. All professional rules were followed and the game was played in regulation cages.

There were four teams in each of two leagues, and they played their schedule under the lights. Joseph S. Besancenez was in charge of the eight teams which ceased to exist in 1963 after a severe storm damaged the cages and they were never rebuilt.

SWIMMING

People in the Creve Coeur community have gone swimming since enough water was found in a pond, lake, creek or river. Competitive swimming, however, is relatively new, and does not appear frequently in the area's history until the organization of the Creve Coeur Swim Club.

John Sigmund, as an eighteen year old contestant in a 21 mile race in Lake Ontario, distinguished himself for endurance in the 1926 event. He trained for the race in Creve Coeur Lake for four months prior to the actual contest.

Mr. Sigmund holds the record for the swim from Alton to St. Louis in the Mississippi, four hours and fifty-eight minutes. He also made a 242 mile non-stop swim from St. Louis to Caruthersville in 1940. In 1965, at the age of 57, Mr. Sigmund with his son John, Jr., swam from St. Louis to Crystal City, a distance of thirty miles.

ST. LOUIS COUNTY FAIR

The first St. Louis County Fair was organized in 1887 and held on Clayton Road, one and one-half miles west of North and South Road on the Samuel Mounts' farm. In 1890, the Fair was moved to the Upper Creve Coeur Lake Park which was owned by Jacob Studt. In 1893, a total of \$1,200 was offered as premiums for the best farm products and livestock.

Featured events of the fair, other than the agricultural exhibits, included the showing of farm machinery, games of chance, side shows, ball games, harness racing, and a mule race. The main entrance requirement of this mule race was that the animal be, in fact, a full time farm worker. The ladies exhibited canned goods, home baked pastries, and their best needle work.

Normally, the fair was held the week before Labor Day, and special days such as Old Settlers Day and County Officials Day were designated in an effort to woo the attendance of specific interest groups. Some families would arrive early and spend the entire day, bringing basket lunches and meeting friends from other parts of the County. During the five days of the Fair's run, as many as twenty-five thousand people would visit the grounds. The fair was discontinued in the mid-1920's.



A lithograph distributed to advertise Upper Creve Coeur Lake, by Jacob Studt, Jr., around the turn of the century.



Creve Coeur Hotel, located on the St. Louis County Fair Grounds, which was used as a hang-out for gangsters and gamblers in the 1920's and 1930's. Building was destroyed by fire in 1966.

CONCLUSION

People like to play and they like to watch others play. They want to be entertained, excited, thrilled, and amused. This desire for diversion has been satisfied with contests, races, games and performances of an endless variety.

The people of Creve Coeur have had access to bicycle races, motorcycle races, marathon races, motorboat races, swimming contests, baseball, softball, basketball, corkball, horseshoe pitching, bowling, golf, tennis, fishing, shooting, hunting, movies, parties, dances, carnivals, picnics, and just plain visiting. This list by no means is intended to be all-inclusive, but it does indicate the broad range of activities which local residents have turned to for relaxation and recreation.

The Future

"Remember this also, and be well persuaded of its truth: the future is not in the hands of Fate, but in ours."

Jules Jusserand

Man has been endowed with qualities and abilities which make it possible for him to alter and redirect some of the forces that play upon his destiny. What his fathers have done bears upon him but not to the extent where he must be enslaved by the actions of those who preceded him.

There is some limited truth in the belief that the shadows of yesterday's events are upon today and are even cast into tomorrow. There is more truth, however, to the ideas expressed in Henley's "*Invictus*", that we are the masters of our fate and the captains of our souls.

The people who built the Creve Coeur community and its traditions were not acting out some predetermined role. They were making things happen, not merely permitting them to happen. This same course of independent action, or the lack of it, will determine the material for future histories.

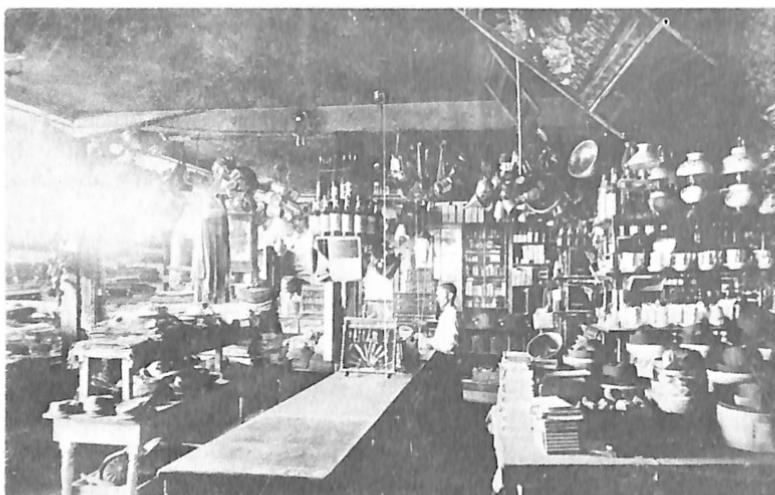
It appears that the complexion of the community will continue to be that of a primarily residential suburb. Rapid access to the areas planned commercial and to the newly developed and industrial sections of Maryland Heights and Gumbo, coupled with the continued development of attractive homesites, indicate a steady movement of people into the Creve Coeur area. This should be the lot of the community until such time as undeveloped land ceases to be plentiful.

Relatively small, local businesses and services will continue to thrive as they serve the growing population. The local businesses will expand and be joined by larger enterprises serving the mushrooming population. The desirability and profit involved in developing homesites on the land, however, has made large tracts too expensive for farming and brought a close to the old frontier as we knew it, but is now bringing a new frontier of ideal residential and business services. Development of heavy industry is negated by zoning restrictions not likely to change.

The opportunities and possibilities for the future are limited only by the imaginations of the people who must live it. Growth in numbers can and, hopefully, will be accompanied by growth in stature. If any person does not like what is expressed by the handwriting on the wall, let him strike it out, and substitute something better.



The first fire truck in 1944 — a 1933 Chevrolet with government issued pump.



View of interior of the general store operated by H. M. Koch in the 1880's. The business was sold to Wm. Dierberg in 1914.



The first home of Creve Coeur Bank



An early Creve Coeur home, dating back to the 1870's.

Since 1854

GROWING with CREVE COEUR



THE ORIGINAL STORE BOUGHT IN 1914 AS IT APPEARED IN 1898. LOCATION WAS WEST OF SECOND STORE SITE.

PROGRESS SOON MADE MODERNIZATION OF THE OLD STORE POSSIBLE AND THE OPERATION WAS HOUSED IN THIS BUILDING IN 1930.



OUR PRESENT LOCATION
AT CRAIG & OLIVE
ERECTED IN 1960

PRESENT 2ND LOCATION
FOUR SEASONS

25,000 SQUARE FOOT LOCATION
AT HIGHWAY 141 AND OLIVE
STREET ROAD, COMPLETED IN
1967.



A TRADITION...

DIERBERG'S